

Kaettekite mo Fantasy!?

When I Returned Home, what I found was Fantasy!?

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Genres : Adventure, Fantasy, Seinen.

Synopsis:

One day, a boy accidentally fell into a dimension hole. What awaited him was a world of so-called sword and magic. Following a two year journey through this new world, he returned home, but not without experiencing disasters, wars and schemes. Upon his return to "Earth", he found out that it has begun to intertwine with another world, named "Garesuto". The world of technology in which he grew has been changed into a fantasy one. His parents divorced and he had no friends anymore. This boy with a new and different knowledge and overall ability gained from another world chose to hide it for a variety of reasons. Nevertheless, his actions, accustomed to turmoil and war, are what make him different from his homeworld, the Earth that he knew.

This story happened because he returned.

[taken from mangaupdates.com]

Synopsis 2:

During a summer, Nakamura Shinichi who is on the way back home suddenly fell into a hole and drifted into fantasy world of Falandia, a world of magic and sword. Over here he lived a harsh life, surviving 2 years full of tragedy, disaster, wars, and scheme before he finally be able to fulfill his objective: to return to his own world. Upon returning, he is shocked to find that the next day after he is drifting, occurrences of

drifting started to happen in other places and the government revealed the existence of another world called as Garest and 8 years later, earth is in midst of culture exchanges with them. Shinichi found himself in confusion as the difference of 2 years and 8 years had robbed him so much: his family breaks and his parents divorced; his mother and brother and sister rejects him, his friends grows into adult, his old home are long gone from reconstruction, technology that progressed much, and the after effects of cultural exchanges to earth society... This is the story of an unlucky boy who return to such world.

[taken from <https://forums.animesuki.com/showthread.php?t=130718>]

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Table of chapters :

Arc 0(Prologue):

Chapter 1: Price of a mistake

Arc 1:

Chapter 1: A farce in broad daylight

Chapter 2: Escape, return, and.....

Chapter 3: 2 years and 8 years

Chapter 4: Rejection

Arc 2:

Chapter 1: Do not make fun of my mother!

Chapter 2: Mistake

Chapter 3: Troublesome Father and Son

Chapter 4: The things, I've always been doing

KmF: Arc-0, Chapter-1: Price of a mistake

Author's note:

This is my first serial work. I don't know how far I will get, but I hope for a good relationship.

The tragedy starts at the end.

That day, I made an irreparable mistake.

Did it collapse because fire burned it? Or did fire burn it so it collapsed as a result of it?

Many wooden houses were partially destroyed and still burning.

You could hear the sound of burnt wood falling together with the crackling sound of burning flames, but alas, you couldn't hear people screaming.

Nothing remained of the village.

The living have been turned into an unrecognizable black mass.

The unlucky ones, well, only grotesquely torn parts of them remain scattered.

Flesh burnt beyond recognition and blood could be found everywhere.

Destruction and slaughter have engraved their marks on the soil, together with what remained of the people.

Who could have known?

This little village was peaceful and untouched an hour ago.

Who could have known??

All that changed to pure hell on earth by one boy's trivial choice.

Who could have known???

That the only survivor and the cause of this was the boy.

「Ugh, uwa, uu.....sorry, I'm sorry」(Boy)

This black-haired boy was now shedding tears, while holding a woman who lost her left arm, in his embrace.

She was a beautiful blonde wearing black clothes that were covered in blood now.

You could still see the life in her eyes. They haven't lost their shine completely, but between the lacerations, bleeding and the loss of an arm, her condition was extremely serious.

It's a surprise she's still alive.

「.....boys don't cry.....」(Woman)

「Oh, Aishis you're awake!？」(Boy)

Even in this state, she managed to put a firm smile on her face.

She gave him a light smack on the head with her right arm, but he didn't stop crying.

All because he knew there is no way to save her.

All because he was responsible for what happened to her, and he knew it all too well.

「Idiot.....why! Why did you help me! Because of that I killed everyone!!」
(Boy)

「Shin, your words.....?」(Aishis)

「Jake, Serene and Lily, everyone! And Aishis, you.....you as well.....I killed you too」(Shin)

She is still breathing. However, that gave him no comfort at all.

She has very little time left, a minute or so.

It was obvious who did it, who was responsible.

「W-w...ell..... this is just because I was clumsy?」(Aishis)

Her trying to make light of the situation made him attempt to laugh, however he did it feebly and with the same sad expression he had from the beginning.

He couldn't understand her attitude. It was wrong.

She should blame him. She should get angry and hate him. She should just want to kill him.

「Don't play with me! What's the meaning if only I survive!?

This is done, I killed everyone, what do you want me to do now!?

At least Aishis, you, I wanted you to be saved.....！」(Shin)

When he made the choice, the mistake, the irreversible one, she was still safe.

He wanted her to be safe, yet she chose to save him instead.

「Haaa, for the cry-baby to worry about me.....am I in this state because

of that too?」(Aishis)

Even when he asked her, she still wouldn't say why. That's why he stopped asking so she could die in peace.

「Aishi!? A-a, Aishis your body!?」(Shin)

What was happening before his eyes made him shout involuntarily out of astonishment.

Her body, wrapped in light, started disintegrating into particles at her feet.

「.....I think that didn't last as expected」(Aishis)

「No way, just now, you were cutting your soul!? Why.....tell me why!!

This was going to happen even if you survived! Why does it have to end like this!？」(Shin)

「.....」(Aishis)

This was the price of the miracle that saved him. It was her, the price was her being, in its entirety. Her body and life were being consumed gradually.

She looked up at him, at his eyes still questioning her in silence.

He cried until he was so tired his face swelled. The end result was you couldn't tell which one of them was actually dying.

His guilt was so immense he nearly collapsed.

Mustering the last of his strength, he asked:

「Why did you help me」(Shin)

「Sheesh.

Finally...I thought we could have a decent conversation, boy.....」(Aishis)

「Shut up!!

As expected, aren't you the imprudent violent sister!」(Shin)

This kind of retort made her smile happily from the bottom of her heart, it was wonderful.

「Hehe, my principle is to not abandon the friends who tell me to do it」
(Aishis)

「A, Ai, shis.....I, I will!」(Shin)

「This.....guard it.....don't give it to...anyone.....」(Aishis)

Barely able to speak, with her last ounce of strength, she tore her pendant, a silver crescent-shaped one, and gave it to him, who was covered in her blood.

「It's not a keepsake.....something important, so, pro.....tect.....」(Aishis)

「Oh, wait, wait! please wait for a moment!

I still have some things to say. A lot of things to say!」(Shin)

Clutching the pendant in his arm, he felt her shake because now even her right hand was missing.

Almost all of her lower body disappeared into light. In his arms, he felt that she was much lighter. That was because more than half her weight was disintegrated into particles of light.

「I understand, it's.....ok」(Aishis)

「It's not, ah, stop! Don't disappear!」(Shin)

Nothing below her chest remained now. One of his hands had nothing to hold anymore.

「Fufu, it's strange.....」(Aishis)

「And, that isn't like.....please wait, wait a moment!」(Shin)

But it disappeared immediately. The weight in his hand was gone.

All that was left was a smile that didn't belong to such a tragic place.

「.....Yes.....even though a boy, in the arms of a man.

It's quite decent, romantic even———」(Aishis)

「Ai———!?」(Shin)

Desperately, he tried to grab the scattering light particles, even though he knew his efforts were futile. Many, many times he grabbed, cutting through the air, yet nothing ever remained in his hand.

Soon after, it hit him. The feeling of loss overwhelmed him.

「—————!!!!」(Shin)

And yet, he couldn't make a sound. The sadness was so deep and breathtaking he couldn't let out a word even if he wanted to. He wailed to the heavens in deep silence.

KmF: Arc-1, Chapter-1: A Farce in broad daylight

Author's note: The number on the left represents a timeline, and the number on the right represents the order within that timeline. This is to keep track of the timeline for later publishing.

(TL's note: If you go to the site, you'll notice that the author is jumping through the timelines in the story so it is necessary to follow his numeration system. This is what he wanted to say. The numeration he uses is like this: 00-01(example for the prologue published, I'm calling the left number arc and the other chapter))

The world watched the unfolding scene with much interest. It left them breathless.

The place where the scene unfolded was of no consequence, it didn't matter if it was the hall of the Royal Palace, the room in a mansion or the town square. Everyone from a citizen to an aristocrat or a person from the beast race, regardless of their race or position, had their eyes fixated on the sight. It could be said that "the world itself" witnessed this 『Event』.

(Editor's note: I'm putting beast race person since this is the first time mentioning races so it's meant as a collective term. I don't know what races are a part of the beast race, so I will be using this term to describe it collectively (think of how humanity describes us))

Spherical video projection equipment made of crystal, namely the crystal ball, makes this possible. There was at least one in every village, even deserted ones. Regardless of its performance and size, it is an

apparatus that brings daily topics to people.

『Today, in the capital Rusento the focus was on the hero Kaito——』

「Oh?」

「What?」

The variety is infinite, from weather forecast to bargaining information or lost child newsflash. This was a symbol of everyday life for the people, but now it was suddenly cut off. Everyone, even those who weren't listening or watching seriously, was now pointing at the ball. As suddenly as it vanished, the projection reappeared with a scene that left everyone stunned. It was something never seen before.

「What is it!?」

「That....isn't something good」

「A『Castle』? But where is such a castle located?」

Covering the dark sky, as if drilling through the clouds themselves, a huge soaring tower could be seen. The fact that it was made of metal and painted in a dull colour, coupled with its size, made it possible to invoke a huge and intimidating feeling while watching it, sufficient enough to be able to describe it as a『castle』. Somehow, the colour of the tower emits a strange cold and darkness that makes the person observing it feel a bit anxious.

This made the people who have only seen castles out of stone very frightened. The objective of the person who staged this was exactly this. That is why he wanted to show the view of the whole castle first. This was all made possible because, for a moment, everyone's attention focused

on the crystal ball. Then, the video zoomed in and the number of people who screamed was beyond imagination.

「Hi!」

「Hey, You're kidding?」

「Iyaaaa!!!」(No, Aaaaaaaaa!!!)

「Why are these guys reflected in the crystal ball」

The castle itself was a mystery, but now a multitude of people have gathered around it, almost like it was some kind of national event or something similar. If it was only that, it wouldn't cause the fear, but the fact is this multitude of people had horns growing on the corners of their heads, in various shapes and sizes. The fact is, out of all the races, there's only one with this peculiar characteristic that comes to mind.

————『Demon race』

Humans have the largest population, but this race is hostile to them. A race with a tough constitution and the highest magical purity – the demon race. Sworn enemies of man, with a history of a long war with the humans. That is what caused people to scream upon seeing them in the crystal ball.

An immeasurable amount of people have tried cutting the video feed, but it remained unresponsive, moreso because of everyone watching the strange scene. The picture expanded and then focused on a single point, the highest balcony of the castle. Several demons could be seen there, standing their ground and giving off a majestic feeling in their luxurious attire. "He", showing the most imposing existence of them all stepped forward out of their group. The humans watching this forgot to breathe, as such was the might of the overpowering impression that the

gallant man imposed staring at them.

From the corners of his head protruded two huge horns that were angled towards the Heavens. This showed how much of a forceful character he was. His light grey hair and red pupils that looked like they were burning instilled an eerie and brutal feeling into the spectators. Through the crystal ball the crowd of demons and his big form with trained muscles, wearing a red and black armour with a black mantle, were clearly shown to the humans. Though he is going to stand on the battlefield in a moment or so, the feeling he gave off was an aura of nobility, rather than a barbaric one, which made quite an impression on the human nobles.

—Therefore, everyone notices his identity and shouts his name almost unanimously.

「No way.....Satan?」

「.....Satan!」

「Sa, I mean Satan!?」

「How horrible.....aaaa, Rimoa-sama save us!」

「Finally Satan came out.....because of that alliance forming!」

『The Satan』, this man evoked different feelings in each individual ranging from anger and resentment to awe. The strongest of the demon race, standing at their top, the largest and most powerful sworn enemy of the human race. Satan, an existence from which you couldn't avert your eyes, unless you were a coward. In this manner, everyone who wasn't afraid was watching this intimidating presence of nobility normally found only in kings that could be felt through the transmission, seeping from the crystal ball from that existence, Satan himself.

「First of all, my thanks to my loyal vassals for gathering here today. To the humans listening to this broadcast. Hear me well. I am the king of demons, the 142nd demon lord Genan Girou!」(Girou)

This dignified, but not a coarse voice roared throughout the world with the help of the crystal ball. The sheer forcefulness of it made it unable for anyone to move from their spot while watching. Not even the demons could remain unfazed when he was introducing himself. One solitary pair of a male and a female standing behind him did not shudder at the announcement. Still wearing the same stiff expression, only the demon prince and princess were untouched upon hearing the words of their king and father.

「Now, we'll start right away.....I'm very sad」(Girou)

His conduct, gestures and manner of speaking in a sorrowful voice reek of acting, but one could not escape the already incited anxiety in oneself.

"What will Satan suggest?"

「Up until now, we demons have handled the unfair requests and invasions from humanity tolerantly. But now, you have foolishly formed an alliance for a big invasion on our country. Even asking the help of a『hero』, a person from another world with no connection to us for the purpose of destroying us. Downright deplorable. Downright pathetic. It's even more cowardly than what weaklings do. And I'm embarrassed about everything you're doing as a person who lives in this world.」

"It's stupid!"

Only several people in the world uttered this sentence and they didn't

say it because he's making humans look like fools. They said it because the fact that this alliance is a demon punitive force and that a hero from another world has joined the force is a top secret. On one side, those who knew about it are in utter shock at the capability of the demons intelligence gathering, and on the other side the demons gathered beneath the castle are shouting loudly in protest against this so-called force.

「Can't they fight with their own strength!」

「Indiscriminate cowards!」

「Involving a person from another world, do you have any shame!」

「Don't permit the invaders dirty tyrannies!」

「Growing impudent and rising up just because we were soft!」

Voices of more than a hundred thousand demons could be heard shouting. This instilled great fear into those watching through the crystal ball so much that half of the people could only cower from the sheer fright without objecting. It was one-sided denouncing. If left alone, the cry from the demon crowd will turn into a mob, so Satan calmly raised his hand and everyone fell silent.

「I understand your feelings.

.....I will not put up with humans running out of control anymore」
(Girou)

He might have known it would turn out like this, so he shouted out these prepared words in response to the shouts from the crowd below.

「We'll show the power of the demons to those human invaders which

lay waste to our motherland!!」(Satan)

————UUOOOOOOOoooo!!!!

As if they were waiting for this moment, this Satan's command, the crowd below, in perfect unison, gave a menacing shout. Witnessing such unity between demons, all human faces turned pale from fear.

However.

It is amazing how many people could die without witnessing the abnormality. Not a single person watching Satan and staring through the crystal ball noticed. Not even the trio of Satan himself, the demon prince and princess that were standing so close to it noticed the strange abnormality.

「Therefore, in Satan's name I order you! To humans who have not learned!?!?」(Girou)

Now, everyone was finally able to see that

It was a shadow. Barely irregular, black shadow, in the form that could be called humanoid. Only the white mask resembling the beak of a bird of prey could be seen instead of its face. It couldn't be recognized until it attacked Satan, and right while everyone was watching. A mysterious aurora light flashed and fresh blood danced in the sky of Satan's Castle, all in that moment in time.

「Gu!」(Girou)

With this sound escaping from Satan, a single blow and his bulky figure staggered back, his armour was shattered into pieces that scattered all around him.

「Wha, Your Majesty!?」

「Father!?」

Everyone was both surprised and shocked, trembling, at this sudden turn of events, but they finally recognized the black shadow as a humanoid shape wearing black clothes. Now, a shade of crimson red could also be seen shining on this shadow as his right hand with which he swung was covered in blood. This was a truly terrible and terrifying thing, one blow from an ordinary knife-hand of this shadow shattered the armour and made the demon lord stagger.

Editor's note: Yes, you're wondering about this knife-hand as well, aren't you? Well, according to the translation it's a bare-hand, in the shape of a knife, hand slash, therefore knife-hand. Even though it sounds silly to me, it's what the author wrote so we're going with that.

「Guards what were you doing!? How could you permit this assassin's invasion!」

「Medic, faster! Father, your injuries!?」

The red-haired princess, holding her hand on her sword, was scolding the guardsmen who were still dazed from the surprising attack. The gold-haired prince rushed over to ascertain the injury and the state of his father while issuing orders to subordinates.

「Calm down fools!!」(Girou)

Satan's voice stopped them both in their tracks. He firmly steps on the floor of the balcony in order to prove that he's safe. While he was wiping his blood the bruise on his chest disappeared. He stares at his opponent that dared injure him in broad daylight.

「.....Mysterious」(Girou)

Referring to the blurry outline, he glares at this black shadowy existence before him. The white mask, in contrast to the blackness surrounding this existence, is the only thing that can be seen clearly. It's giving off an eerie feeling.

「That is a mask.....with a familiar white shape resembling that of a bird.

Have you come to take my head, masked assassin 『Masquerade』!!」
(Girou)

Upon shouting the name of the legend, he swung down his sword to crush him. It's more accurate to call it an explosion that tore off a part of the balcony rather than a sword. Dust soars from the heavy strike, while the black shadow and his white mask have disappeared.

「Eh.....what?」

「.....What!？」

In a heartbeat, the black shadow slipped through and entered the castle, leaving only a gust of wind behind. The speed with which he moved could not be described. This was the first time Satan met anyone like that.

「.....It's a lie.....What is it with that speed!？」

「I, I couldn't react at all?」

The gold prince looks back, only to find the shadow gone, while the red princess is still stunned after witnessing the surprising speed of the shadow.

「Wha, what is this.....Heck, what does he want!？」

It was a pitiable voice of a man returned back to reality. The sudden event made the man with the same hair colour and eyes as Satan turn blue.

「Storr, this is unsightly! Are you not the person in charge of the guards!!」

「Hiii!」(Storr)

She pressed with bloodshot eyes, removed her sword and placed it on the man's slender neck.

「Princess, what!？」(Storr)

「The person in charge is responsible. For missing that assassin, don't

think your head will be connected with your body tomorrow!!」

「But, why! Why would that guy come out here」(Storr)

「Shut up, you incompetent fool! The projection was your idea. And the result is: the whole demon family has been humiliated in front of the whole world! Be happy I'll finish it with just thy neck..... if you want to redeem yourself, kill the intruder!!」

「Of course, what are you lazy guys standing around for. Go find the intruder! And kill him!」(Storr)

The princess was taking her anger out on him so he was forced to take a subordinate and go find the assassin. Still, it wasn't enough so the princess slammed the sword into the wall where Storr was standing just a moment ago. Compared to her father, the power is inferior, yet still strong to lodge the sword into the wall and make a fine crack.

「To think he was approaching and I couldn't notice!」

「Sister, please don't take it out on the castle walls」

「 You're noisy! And what were you doing this whole time!」

「I went to cut the relay! Though most of it was already seen.....」

Great, this is just great. Why did something like this happen, she thought while biting her lip in frustration. This assassin infiltrated the castle, attacked the top of the demons, Satan himself, and not only did the countries that plan to attack witness it, the whole world saw it all. Moreover, it's even more painful because we were attacked while declaring war. Even their own people across the 『World』saw this spectacle. I can't help but think that morale plummeted.

「.....Leben, open the connection and relay to the world once again.」
(Girou)

Even though he was discouraged by the fight, Satan sternly gives the order to both of them.

「Oh, but」

「Hurry, it's a royal command!」(Leben)

Even though he was Satan's son, Satan's command is absolute. Immediately after the projection resumed, Satan stepped out on the clipped balcony. He raised his voice to speak to the confused crowd before the castle.

「Calm down my people! As you can see I'm safe! A meagre human assassin cannot kill me. Seal all exits out of the castle and hunt down the assassin!」(Girou)

Demons shuddered at his order. This is what Satan represents to them. Satan, the strongest man who yields to noone and drives oneself harder than anyone. Satan, the strongest king. Their demon blood boiled just from being under the command of such a king.

「Satan is well!!」

「Your Majesty!」

「It's truly him!」

「Alright, I won't let one rat escape!」

—————UUOOOOOOOOOOOooooo!!!!

Another unified roar in response to Satan's order. They formed a camp so nobody could escape from the castle. The ability and charisma he exuded moved the crowd as if nothing had happened. Towards the parent standing proudly in front of them, both children felt awestruck.

"Is this the Satan" "One day I'll be at that place"

「I'll also search!」(Leben)

「He will escape if we leave it to Storr」

Satan doesn't move while his children join the search for the assassin. One reason was that he didn't want to disappear from the view of his people again, but another and more significant was his responsibility. We will not bother each other anymore. That was the contract.

—————But in reality, he hoped that his friend can return home safely.

While muttering to himself, there was a momentary smile.

KmF: Arc-1, Chapter-2: Escape, return, and.....

This is a story about a boy who went everywhere. For him it was at the end of April two years ago. Like everyone else, the boy and his family were preparing to travel together after a long time before the Golden Week. After school finished, the boy was returning in a hurry because he was looking forward to the trip. But then, suddenly, something happened. He felt as if he was being sucked in or as if he was falling and the end result was that he was transferred somewhere unknown to him.

As far as the eye can see, he was surrounded by wilderness and this made him panic. His personality didn't let him shriek or scream, although he was still dazed by this sudden turn of events. Eventually, coming to his senses, he was at a loss as to what to do next so he kept standing there in a daze. With no knowledge of survival and technology of any kind nowhere to be seen , this 13-year-old young boy wandered around. Even though he had his cellphone, there was no signal. The forest in front of him was full of plants he had never seen before.

A horned butterfly. A rabbit spewing fire. Monstrous birds the size of jet planes danced through the sky. Even though he desperately tried tricking himself into thinking that what he was seeing wasn't real, eventually he realized all of his efforts were futile. At that moment a huge monstrous bird appeared. Overcome by fear, he ran and it was lucky that by pure chance he ran out of the forest. But this is where his luck stopped. He was relieved that he escaped the forest and the bird, but consequentially, reality hit him straight in the face. To be more precise, he had no choice but to admit it. This was a different world than the one he knew.

While he was seeing small animals, he could still deceive himself, since he doesn't know all that exist in his world. However, it was impossible to

not know of the existence of such a huge bird. There was only one thing left to do, so he finally accepted his new reality, the fact that he arrived in a different world. Walking away from the forest, he was likely to be crushed by the anxiety that rumbled inside him. Endless questions appeared in his mind.

Why did I come to a different world? What should I do now? Can I meet a person here? Would they help me if I met them? To begin with, are there any people in this world? How should I explain why am I here and what happened to me?

This train of thought only served to increase his anxiety so he forced himself to think about something else, namely, protecting himself. Yet, his mind didn't listen so his feelings and anxiety were pushed back to a corner of his mind by a different kind of anxiety. The seed of it has been planted as soon as he thought of it and there was no taking his mind off of it. One singular question.

—Can I return?

That house. Can I return to that house where my parents and siblings wait for me?

Even though he felt great despair, at the same time he was excited, thrilled to be in this new world, grateful for a break from the boring daily routine. Thinking of it, he started feeling as a protagonist in an anime or manga, but that cooled off in a moment or so. It was out of character, him thinking that way. He wasn't a child who dreamt of or believed in such a thing. Reflecting upon this "protagonist" idea that surfaced in his mind, he felt it was a nice way to escape from the reality and despair of his current situation.

——No, I'm sure that it's not necessary——for someone to summon me to save this world.

He knew he couldn't get drunk on such stupid ideas. Lost in his thoughts, he was relieved when he found what looked like a small rural village. But this feeling of relief and relaxation washed away in less than five minutes. Why? Because he knew Japanese, and it was natural that they use a different language here. After all, this is a different world and not a location where the knowledge and common sense of his world were used. So it was normal, and almost certain that there existed a different language in use here.

Salvation came to him in form of their appearance, since they looked like "humans". His communication skills were lousy and gestures didn't seem to go through well enough. Also, there was no reason to employ a Japanese high school student with no special training or skills whatsoever. To the people in the village he was just a weak kid who couldn't communicate.

His misfortune couldn't get worse. The language of this world is unified. Races using different languages were hostile to humans. Translation magic exists, but it is not available in such rural villages because they don't transmit it there. Further on, in this world where Japanese language doesn't exist, there is no reason for it to be translated. What made it even more creepy was that his appearance was akin to their own.

In the end, he had to leave the village or better said, he was driven out. The boy's day to day life from that point on couldn't be called praiseworthy. There were people that helped him. He did make some acquaintances and he became friends with others. Thankfully, because of

them he was able to learn the words and rules of this new world. Unfortunately, his behaviour, that of an otherworlder, led to this incident and the number of people that became unhappy or died was not limited to one or two. (Editor's note: The incident in question is the same one from the prologue.)

This resulted in his inability to settle anywhere. Wandering around the world for 2 years, he was looking for a way to return. It's all because he was the cause. He shouldn't have been there. If he wasn't there no one would have died, no one would be unfortunate. Since there was no reason why he was in this world, it was horrible for him to involve himself with anyone. He became desperate to go home, but returning to a different world, to his original one, it was always only a pipe dream here. Even with the excellent magic culture spreading daily, the wall between worlds has yet to be breached. Different knowledge and technology were needed so it could be accomplished.

Not even a single hint was found, so he couldn't help it, he gave up. He had to give up on it. Even listening to famous scholars and magicians, even turning over the whole library with the greatest amount of books, even investigating ancient ruins, even checking all the legends. It couldn't be found, the means to return was nowhere to be found.

From the time he made the decision to give up, a nonchalant attitude awoke in him and the boy learned the technology and knowledge to live in this new world without a problem so he could take up permanent residence here. His decision was to live quietly in seclusion. This lifestyle satisfied his newfound self. It was hard for him to discern if it was out of comfort or resignation but he hardened his resolve to live in this world.

—————And suddenly, the boy was at a loss for words. The means for him to go home have been found.

Instead of rejoicing and a feeling of pleasantness, he had a feeling that someone was pulling his leg, making a prank at him. Even though he could have built friendships, his trauma made him keep everyone at a certain length, distant from him. This distance resulted in his inability to settle down anywhere, and there was no place where he could return. As atonement for what he caused, he kept piling up good deeds which in turn only enlarged the emptiness he felt inside. Even if he wanted to run away, there was no place he could escape to. Many, many times he cried as he dreamt of his home and family.

I want to return

Even trivial memories of his parents and siblings raised his nostalgia and hurt like hell. No matter what he tried to do to find this way home, there was no positive feedback, so he gave up in desperation. No one could imagine the feelings of a boy prepared to do anything. In the end he was convinced it was a joke and anger started swelling up inside him. Even in this unreasonable rage, he still thought that if there was a way to return he honestly wanted to find it. At the same time a danger of staying in this world presented itself, thus further strengthening his resolve to return.

And once the boy found out his way home is inside Satan's treasury, he

Satan's soldiers stationed inside the castle were running and searching for the intruder throughout the castle. Groups were formed and blocked the entrances and exits from the castle. The castle itself was now dimly lit from a number of small windows. After cutting off all ins and outs with guards, the intruder has now become a cornered mouse. This was going

on inside everyone's heads while the masked person, the very intruder they were looking for, slipped past them as if he knew all of their moves from the start. Finally, he stopped in front of a certain place.

The huge door seemed too solid and heavy for a single assassin to open it because this peculiar door had no doorknob, handle or even a gap in the『door』. Without ever realizing it, you would simply walk by this "door" and never know its true identity, unless you were somehow properly informed. The patterns on the wall represent the real door and the entrance to the room. With a casual wave of his hand, he threw Satan's blood on the patterns, and the door began trembling until it finally opened. It was almost as if it welcomed him.

「.....」(Assassin)

Although he was informed about the system requiring blood beforehand, he wondered if it was that good of a crime prevention system. However, here it is, a room that doesn't become available without the blood of Satan himself. All things aside, it is truly difficult unless there is a stronger person than Satan since it is no small feat to "wound Satan". What he accomplished earlier, most people would shrug it off as a trick or a farce, and this assassin, regrettably, also had no self-awareness even though he pulled it off so easily.

Once the door opens enough for a single person and he enters and closes it from the inside, the room can become a safety zone. Unless Satan himself were to open it, no one would find him here.

—————But, there was still one possibility, that of a person who knows of its existence. If such a person notices the blood...

『Fu.....I'm tired』(Assassin)

He's safe if he doesn't make any loud noises, since only those can be heard outside. Gaining a sense of security, the assassin lets out a sigh for the first time. However, it was a neutral sound from which one couldn't recognize neither his age nor his gender. The assassin placed his hand in front of the mask and made a movement one would make to remove it. Stunningly, the mask disappeared, and the face hiding beneath was finally revealed.

「—I sometimes forget since we're united」(Assassin)

Complaining aloud, while sighing and turning around, it was, terrifyingly, a child. A boy of a 『Japanese』 appearance with long messy black hair and dark brown eyes. Neither short nor tall, possessing a thin, slender body, this boy doesn't have an aspiration for showing his physique. Considering his mediocre appearance, no one would take him for an assassin without his black garments. If he got mixed in a crowd, you were more than likely to lose him.

Therefore, in this room, he can't help but be outstandingly noticeable.

The room held a number of dazzling gold and brilliant jewellery, piled up enough to fill the room. Satan's treasure storage. The one place where generations of Satans throughout history amassed gold, wealth and various magical tools as both trump cards to use and priceless treasure. Standing in front of it, the ordinary black boy really stood out so he started looking here and there for something, in an effort to not waste more time.

「.....Hey, Girou. How do you expect me to find it in THIS.」(Shin)

The floor of the treasury could not be seen from the mass of treasure accumulated inside. Straining his eyes, he saw swords, armour, and a dangerous-looking mask buried in a heap of gold. He was complaining in his mind to the man who wasn't even here, since he has to think of a way to efficiently look for the thing. Neither gold nor silver is what this boy wants. Looking at the treasure, there was no desire for money in his heart. He felt nothing in this place where you could take all the money your heart desires.

「Before.....enter and advance in a straight line....it's there.....does that mean over that mountain of gold, haaaa」(Shin)

Looking at this mountain of gold that could last for hundreds of lifetimes, he sighs again. He ascended the golden mountain by slowly jumping and then descended on the other side. It was there as he told, his objective was waiting for him in the indicated place. Well no, it was actually enshrined.

「Everything is so simple and only that is showy」(Shin)

On top of a regal pedestal of gold lies, displayed in plain sight, an ordinary pendant. It made for a surprising contrast of proportions, in terms of wealth. The pendant had a normal chain and on its end was a clear sphere with blue liquid shaking within.

「It's shaking?

Aaa, aren't the soldiers working hard.

「I'll be found here ahead of schedule if I don't hurry.」(Shin)

He shuddered from all the vibrations of soldiers that were moving around. He took the pendant and immediately wore it on his neck. It nestled next to a crescent-shaped pendant which was already on his neck. There was a spirit cloth tied in a mantle around his neck, which he neatly placed on the ground and expanded it to cover the treasures so he could stand on top of it. It had complex geometric patterns and magic was already running through it.

「Don't worry. I've fixed the coordinate axis. The times I've done the experiments number in the tens. All that's left is to actually transition later with this.」

But still, let's enjoy whether or not this will be successful.」(Shin)

As he muttered the explanation to someone, the boy made a tense and stiffed expression. Even though preliminary preparations are perfect, his anxiety of a failure doesn't go away. It's even worse since the anxiety from searching for a way home strengthens it. When he thought he couldn't return anymore, he had given up on it but now that a way has been found, he can't help but try it.

「.....The reason isn't this world here with its bad living conditions. It's because it's annoying that I'm here, when this isn't a place where I should be.」(Shin)

In his mind he kept seeing the view of the town where he was born. Memories of his childhood. Memories of his family and home. Memories of everyday friends he was on good terms with. That's the place where he belongs, so he clenched the two pendants and renewed his determination. This pendant was the jewel that contained massive amounts of magical power that generations upon generations of Satans have been storing inside it. As if signalling the activation, it began emitting a faint light and squeezing the magical power from within it.

「Return.....I will definitely, return!!」(Shin)

He nearly lost hope and gave up from the strange floating sensation that teleportation magic had. It was his family from whom he had been separated for two years, that kept him holding on. Meet. I want to meet them. He cries in hope to meet them again, no matter what it takes. He was wrapped in light and suddenly, he disappeared.

——From the different world by the name of 「Farandia」.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....And finally, he arrived.

He was convinced he would certainly return. The destination he arrived in was a lonely forest near a street. His first glimmer of hope came in the form of an artificial light on that street and then he noticed the concrete road he had not touched in a long time. Then, there was a group of black-haired Japanese people that cannot be found in Farandia. License plates on SUVs with Japanese numbers and signs with Japanese writings. Everything was screaming «Japanese» for certain and when it hit him, he “almost” cried. “Almost”, because something happened out of the blue.

「Don't move!」(Soldier)

Even the hard, coarse Japanese voice filled the boy's heart with something. That all disappeared with the appearance of a black muzzle being pointed at him. It was amazing that he was able to feel nostalgic in this kind of situation.

What's going on?

His heart was in turmoil between excitement and confusion at the developing situation before his eyes. It's good that he was able to meet people and moreover, he was lucky that he returned to his motherland safely. If only there wasn't the fact that he was surrounded by the JSDF upon his return. (Editor's note: JSDF = Japanese Self Defense Forces)

「2218, we're taking you in under suspicion of crossing worlds without permission.」(Soldier)

——What!?

——In April this year, the boy returned. Unfortunately for him, fortunately for the world——

Time will fly a little bit from here.

After 01-02,

This is what happened to the boy after he was surrounded by people that "seemed" to be from JSDF and the talk he had upon return, before he went to school.

"I'm beaten"

Such was his honest impression about the situation he fell into upon return. Something like this was bound to happen when a missing person suddenly appears after 2 years. However, the reaction was too sudden and the corresponding actions taken were just too mysterious. Upon his return from Farandia, what seemed to be the JSDF surrounded, caught and threw him in a windowless inorganic room the size of about 10 tatami mats.

——Why in the world did this happen!?

「.....Boy, don't you think it's time you said something?」(Man)

Sitting at the center of the desk, the boy was facing a man in his thirties who repeated that question for the fifth time already, and yet, the boy said nothing.

「.....」(Shin)

Over his well-trained physique, he wore a uniform with his rank insignia attached to it. The boy observed it and assumed him to be a self-defence force official. The man did not name himself. Considering the lack of roughness in his way of speaking, the boy had not felt an overpowering impression from this stern person.

「Well, Captain Kayama has such a face but he's not a scary person」
(Lady)

The lady standing next to the man, called Kayama, spoke in a soft tone. Her womanly figure was well endowed with what makes a woman alluring, coupled with black hair that went down to her shoulders, but she did not give off a feeling of a young woman. The boy couldn't imagine what was such a petite woman in her late twenties doing in this line of work. Nevertheless, her unwasted actions and gentle tone indicated she wasn't careless. The boy felt that she was a partner with decent ability like Kayama. However, it was hard to imagine her incapacitating her opponents with her bare hands without injuring them.

「Hey, Sasamori!

Are you saying he's silent because he's afraid of my face!?」(Kayama)

「W-well, for the first time meeting Captain that face is.....

Please stop calling me by my maiden name.

How many years do you think has passed since I got married?」
(Sasamori)

「Tsk, it's not a bad face!

And it's tiresome to change the way I call you after all this time」
(Kayama)

He clicked his tongue while she smiled bitterly. From their trustful exchange, the boy felt that they're not bad people. More likely, they're the ones who always get the short end of the stick. What added to this was that they were having such a conversation within an interrogation room in front of the questioned. There was also a possibility that it was intentional so he would ease up and relax, and start talking.

But it was only what he sensed, there was no hard evidence. The boy couldn't believe it was really his Earth, considering where he was and by whom and why he was captured. But it wasn't Farandia. In this state he knew he shouldn't reveal any information.

「.....」(Shin)

In order to do this, since he came back he put on an indifferent face. A dead pan face with no emotions whatsoever. It was sad. Whatever they use, he won't change his expression. He must remain unfazed. It was a way for him to keep silent during interrogations, but also doubled as a way to mask his presence which was more useful in Farandia.

「Haaa, it's no good.

....Can't you at least tell me why are you keeping silent?」(Kayama)

He stood up, eyes peering into the face of the boy sitting opposite to him. He was making a face that made the boy feel like he did something wrong. Maybe this can turn around and work out in the end if he just listens obediently. But if he were to do that, he would be giving his opponent this information: "I don't know anything". If it was so, the first words Kayama said when he entered the room would have been a problem.

『What is it, you're Japanese. If so I don't need an explanation. Where did you come from?』

In other words, they thought that he knows why he was arrested and why he's being interrogated. That's why they didn't follow normal procedure and told him the accusation. There was a tense atmosphere sending the message that he should know who they are and what they do for work. That's why he couldn't say "I don't know anything", since that is a valuable piece of information that would have become troublesome in the future. It's not like all the troublesome situations he went through on Farandia were just for show. He was unusually sensitive in those situations, although that fact nearly made him cry.

What happened here on Earth during his 2 years on Farandia?

He even purposely transferred to a secluded place so he could examine his surroundings unhindered. It wouldn't be prudent to suddenly appear in a town. Although he did not set the exact arrival coordinates upon his leave from Farandia, he did set a condition for the transfer – 『an unpopulated forest without human contact』. After safely returning, is this "the" world that he should return to? He had carefully planned so he could have time to ascertain it upon arrival.

He moved while hiding all kinds of different world products that could cause trouble. It was night, but he could see the artificial light on one of the national highways, so he went towards it. And just as he was thinking he could get somewhere if he followed the road, he was assaulted. Thinking about it now, his response to assault was full of blunders. Zero points, below the red mark. He trembled at the sight of a 「car」, and seeing 「Japanese」things and hearing 「Japanese language」. This caused his slow response and then he was thrown into an interrogation room somewhere in this facility which leads us to where we are now.

——Quite unsightly of me

「I wonder why he's not speaking.

Certainly, you have the right to remain silent, but in this case nothing good will come out of it.

Don't be a stubborn boy, are you scared of something?」(Kayama)

「Hey, won't you tell me why are you silent?

I think we can help you if you're in any trouble, we're quite a force here.

Because we have quite an authority here, do you understand?」
(Sasamori)

The concern he heard in those words almost made him cry. That was

the first time in 2 years that someone treated him like a child. But this was not enough to erase his anxiety that welled up inside him when they caught him, since the first words those two spoke to him were this.

"Where did you come from?"

"How did you come?"

"Why have you taken a trip from the other world illegally?"

They wanted answers to those three questions, but aside from the first one, the other two were strange. That technology was still only in science fiction, back when he was on Earth. He didn't think it was possible to make a law to control such technology and put it into circulation so it becomes common in mere 2 years.

「Let's talk by putting all our cards on the table. By your looks, you're Japanese.

You obviously understand our words without a translator. There's no other way besides the legal route for you to go there. Usually the same method is used when returning. Yet you used the illegal route, why?」

「My bad, you must have done something bad up there and fled.」
(Kayama)

「Captain, don't put it that way!」(Sasamori)

The female officer tried to protect the boy, but he was correct. That's because, after attacking Satan, he escaped from Satan's treasury. However, Kayama's manner of speaking implies that traveling between

the worlds is commonplace. This made him think that, by mistake, he came to a 『similar but different world』. It is difficult to imagine because of the nature and structure of dimension traveling, but thinking of the possibility made him uncomfortable. There is no way to verify it at this moment, nor would it be easy to escape from here. If this was really his hometown, his face had already been seen and if he does something here, it would, without a doubt, cause trouble for his family.

「.....」(Shin)

He was nearing the limit of time he could remain silent. If he was to stick to it anymore it will produce the opposite effect. Well, if it's these two, it seems he can trust them, and his intuition was telling him that as well, but the problem is whether their bosses and the organization itself is trustworthy. So as a last resort of a cornered rat, it's better to talk to them and gather information than to gamble.

「.....Would it be okay, to ask a question?」(Shin)

While he was thinking, he spoke with a terribly calm voice without intonation. It was a voice made out of habit, used over there during interrogations. He thought it a bad habit, but what the heck, it's already out.

「At last, when I thought you'd finally start talking you ask a question. But you did not reply to any of our questions.」(Kayama)

「Captain! S-So what do you want to hear eh?」(Sasamori)

In the end, nothing unnatural happened. The female officer asked promptly, while the male officer shrugged and couldn't help but

complain. The boy felt relieved inside that they didn't recognize his voice. He was puzzled that they didn't notice, but he continued.

「What day of what month of what year is it?」(Shin)

「What?」(Sasamori)

It's not a very significant question, it's meaningless, one might say. He asked out of feeling that the time he spent on Farandia was 2 years. It should be around that much and the margin of error could be small in either direction (more or less). He came to Farandia in 2014, immediately before the start of GW at the end of April. Normally, it should be 2016 now. By hearing the actual date, he could correct his calculations now. It wasn't such important information, but he couldn't ask his main question right away. A question of this degree wouldn't be that hard to answer.

So,

Upon hearing the unexpected answer all colour paled from his face.

「Today is second of April 2022」(Sasamori)

「.....2022?!?」(Shin)

「Whoa!？」「Kya!？」(Kayama/Sasamori)

After a long silence, the boy came to his senses. Crying, he stood up and hit the desk. Impossible. Even if there are some errors, for 2 years to suddenly become 8 years is impossible. Although he did not count the dates, Farandia had a 24 hour day. Up to half a year of error in calculations was acceptable to him, even expected, but he couldn't believe such a big difference. Especially since it was normal dimension

travel and not a time travel between worlds.

「Evidence! Is there any evidence! The evidence that the year really is 2022!」(Shin)

He asked in a strong tone, as though there was no silence before. Even though a calm voice protested in the back of his head. There was nothing to be gained for them in tricking you about the date. Still, he couldn't accept that so many years passed. The meaning in 2 and 8 years, the difference in the amount of time was too large.

「Look at my cell phone? It displays a date, look. Rather, why would we lie about such a thing.」

Kayama, confused, opened his cellphone. The LCD, after a nostalgic sound of opening which the boy hadn't heard in a long while, displayed the date 2022/04/02.

「If you're uneasy about Kayama's you can take a look at my Foster as well.」(Sasamori)

The female officer, called by her maiden's name Sasamori, opened her terminal. She touched something like a wristwatch and it projected a picture in the air.

「Wha!?」(Shin)

The boy raised his voice out of surprise. However, it wasn't the advanced technology that made him surprised. The projected video was

more shocking to the boy than anything else in the world.

「Hoho u」(Kayama)

「Eh, ah, it's a mistake!!」(Sasamori)

—Someone, please tell me I wandered into a parallel world!

He was so desperate that he actually congratulated himself for not saying that aloud. It shouldn't be here. A lie. A lie. A lie. A lie. A lie.

His mind was unable to accept the fact and was screaming, but the other part, the calm one in his head knew that it was an unmistakable fact. The dimension travel he used had him as a factor in its usage. Even if there was a parallel world for the factor to be the same is highly unlikely. So, the only remaining conclusion was that this definitely was the world in which he grew up until he was 13 years old.

「So, So-so-sorry! I made a mistake!」(Sasamori)

「Haha, sorry about that. She's still in honeymoon mood. Waiting to show off her husband and baby.」(Kayama)

「Please don't make fun of me captain! I'm really sorry, it's here」
(Sasamori)

She shows the date to him while being enveloped in red because of her captain's teasing. Without looking at it decently, exhausted, the boy sat down. Even though it should have been a happy topic, something can be

heard breaking inside of him. On her terminal there was a man shown holding a baby. From the way the conversation was flowing, he realized that the man was her husband and the baby their child. A father holding his child, smiling, and a mother waiting for them.

My God, the photo is like a symbol of happiness.

Normally, the boy would smile at the sight. The cuteness of a baby and the healing effect derived from that show is tremendous and the same everywhere. But it only made his mood desperate.

—What is, what is this

Why did 8 years pass

Why did it become like this

Why have I returned
By all means, why!!
Why, on Earth!?
What is this, what is this, what is——!?

「—————!!」(Shin)

Pulling his hair out, not making a sound, he's desperately suppressing his cry. I don't know. I can't understand. The truth was he didn't want to understand. I mean that's-

「Eh, no way.....Shinichi-kun?」(Sasamori)
「!？」(Shinichi)

His face twitched as, after a long time, his name had finally been called with the right pronunciation. He was unable to continue his expressionless facade. It was too much of a shock. She took his reaction as positive so she smiled happily like the happiness from seeing blooming flowers.

「Oh, I thought so!

Though I didn't notice you because of your long hair Shinichi-kun!」
(Sasamori)

「Hey, your acquaintance?」(Kayama)
「Eh, ah, it's for the first time we meet each other.....I, aaah!?

N-no, ah, you know Shinichi-kun about that photo a little while ago..... well that!

What it means is.....Eh.....aaah!!??」(Sasamori)

When she noticed its true meaning, she became flustered. Both men were confused by meaningless words and cries that came out. The passing of 8 years was probably addressed in the worst manner. Judging from her pale face, the boy easily understood and became calm. He had to be calm.

—Something like, sorry. Really sorry

Although he didn't say it out loud, he apologized in his mind. She might have blundered, but it's really not her fault. It's just horrible luck and a meeting of coincidence for the boy.

That it truly is. He remembered and laughed in his mind. A long time ago, whenever he did something, his actions backfired. Even if out of good intentions he carried out a carefully thought out action, it still backfired. Backfired. Arousing displeasure, he was scolded because his bad timing often annoyed the other party. How stupid of him, to have forgotten that it would happen this time in particular.

「Sasamori? Hey, what do you mean?」(Kayama)

Kayama could not keep up with the conversation, so he shifted his gaze towards the boy. She was still in a state of shock, and not a single meaningful word was coming out of her mouth,

「Before answering that, please tell me one other thing.

Her....formal name now.....」(Shinichi)

This was to be his last confirmation. His last hope. Unlike the expressionless face he wore before, this time there was a pathetic feeling written all over his face. That is probably why the captain didn't respond jokingly as before.

「.....It's Nakamura Rinko.」(Kayama)

Though it was a common surname easily found, it was proof enough for him. In a self-mocking manner the boy identified himself.

「.....My name is, Nakamura Shinichi.」(Shinichi)

「Huh.....Nakamura?」(Kayama)

To be in this state right after he came back. As usual, a mistake. All those thoughts swirling in his head suddenly seemed so silly.

「I'm the step-son of.....her over there, probably」(Shinichi)

「.....Haaaaaaa!?!?」(Kayama)

After a blank moment, he announces that while laughing dryly. While there was large shouting in the interrogation room, the boy murmured to himself 「isn't it」. Everyone could only be surprised at the turn of events. Instead of 2 years, 8 years have passed and to top it all off, he had been

shown the photo of his father with another woman which was beyond his wildest imagination.

「Ahaha.....hahahaha.....what is this?

I can do nothing but laugh, hahahahahaha.....」(Shinichi)

——I don't care anymore——!!!

Endlessly, the boy divulged himself in his dry laughter, abandoning any and all thoughts——

KmF: Arc-1, Chapter-4: Rejection

The significant impact of the revelation of the boy's identity as Nakamura Shinichi resulted in the suspension of any further investigation. Instead, he was subjected to a physical examination and a health diagnosis so they could see if there are any injuries or illnesses. Naturally, they were worried about otherworldly bacteria and wanted to prevent it from spreading. In reality, the underlying reason for the examination was to verify his identity. They had to know if he was truly 『Nakamura Shinichi』.

In the end, from their viewpoint, he was drifting in another world for 8 years, but his physical form has only gone through minor changes as if only 2 years had passed. In other words, the change was that the 13-year-old boy looked like a 15-year-old, but in their timeline he is a 21 year old. He couldn't lie about his appearance since it's clearly that of a 15 year old. His hair is longer now, but his face was pretty much the same as in the picture that was posted. He wasn't satisfied with that fact as 「neither his stature nor his looks grew」. However, that is trivial, considering the amount of shocks that are bound to happen "now", after the test.

「Okay, we're done. You can get dressed. Please wait until the check ends.」(Doctor)

He came down from the pedestal he was sleeping on until now, following the instructions of the woman in a lab coat that's in charge of his inspection. The device that was used to examine him, much like a CT scanner, was now displaying information to the screen in the doctor's hands. His result didn't interest him in the least, so he unconsciously glanced at the woman and frowned. Her hair colour was green. A different type of colour from the usual ones he remembered. He could tell

it was an original colour she was born with as he saw it multiple times on Farandia. It brought him great discomfort seeing that in the ranks of the usually black-haired Japanese.

—That's not impossible, we had exchanges with a different world.

It's the only logical explanation. They described it to him before, but his head still hadn't processed the shocking fact.

「Kyu, Kyuu.....」

「It's alright. It's just a testing device」(Shinichi)

「.....」

A creature with a perplexed feeling that wasn't showing on its face ran up to him. It was gold, in the shape of a fox, but it had three tails. However, the doctor was at a loss for words so its cries were completely misinterpreted.

「.....Taming that, really. Isn't that an Amaryllis Fox?」(Doctor)

Looking in anticipation from afar, the green doctor and the staff were quite surprised. Mixed impressions of fright and disbelief were written all over their faces.

「Kyuu!」(Fox)

「Hii!」(People)

「Stop it, be quiet」(Shinichi)

People around him were visibly frightened. Some even cried since it seems the sight before them intimidated them too much. Shinichi strongly remonstrated, after which he conveyed his gratitude by patting her head. After all, proceeding this far without him revealing much was thanks to "her". She was hiding in his clothes but after hearing the facts her lord was left in a shocking stupor. It was only natural for her to jump out because she had been worried. Her revelation caused the building to temporarily fall into a state of panic. However, this subsided quickly because she showed no hostility and obeyed Shinichi. Originally, she was Farandia's living organism called Tenkorius. Her similarity to another world's creature that was known to Earth has caused her to be mistaken for it. Fortunately for Shinichi, this helped them draw the conclusion as to where he's been.

「Doctor, are you sure there are no big injuries or anything else?」(Rinko)

However, that had given another big worry for the female officer here.

「Yes, he has a healthy body. Actually, he's too thin but that's nothing big. When placed in a "nature reserve" I think it's only natural for him to be this way.」(Doctor)

Nature reserve. From what they told him, he understood it was some kind of danger zone in the other world. Rugged terrain, land of mysteries and natural remains where fierce creatures, hostile to humans, roamed. Amaryllis was one of the most intelligent creatures there. That is what led

them to believe he was there.

「There's no mistake that you've been under the protection of the Amaryllis there.」(Doctor)

Even if Shinichi didn't know nearly as much as they did about their other world, Garesuto, it did not seem unnatural to them for him to live, considering his status was low all over the place. Since it would be difficult to deceive them, considering his lack of information, he hopped on board with their story.

「That's why. It's not possible for an all D to survive the nature reserve」(Doctor)

「Eh, what all-D, Eeh!?」(Rinko)

Satisfied with her deduction, the doctor exclaimed it with a smile. On the other hand, the female officer, Rinko, was surprised. He was surprised as well, but he had little difficulty hiding it. Actually, he was mostly surprised about the direction in which this is going.

「Surprising? Look for yourself, here's the result of the test. Strength D, stamina D, spirit D, endurance D, agility D = all D. Moreover everything is at limit.」(Doctor)

「It really is, but.....such.....」(Rinko)

「That's all?」(Shinichi)

Looking at the results screen, the two of them had different reactions. She was surprised by his low values, while he was surprised that the most important one is missing. Out of this surprising turn of events, he whispered something, but fortunately for him, she hadn't noticed.

「It's troublesome, you know. Even if a child of this degree returns, he'll just be obstructive」(Doctor)

「.....No need for concern. I don't care as I'm an Earthling」(Shinichi)

The tone of his voice quickly dropped, responding to the doctor's conclusion that showed what she really meant when she said low scores. It was his best effort to keep calm since he was suppressing his irritation. It turns out the other one in the room, Rinko, is not adept at hiding her negative emotions.

「.....Um, what was the result of the test? Have you found out if I'm Nakamura Shinichi?」(Shinichi)

Sensing the growing disturbance in the air, he reminded them of their initial objective. At the time he didn't understand it, but he was happy she got angry for him since they were only in-laws.

「Y-yeah.....DNA examination, teeth mark inspection, facial structure and whatnot. It's 99.99999% positive that he's the Nakamura Shinichi from 8 years ago」(Doctor)

Talking about his status she stated the results while being not even a

little bit interested in them. The female officer let out a voice of relief following this affirmation by scientific means. He had a surge of joy, even more than when he returned, after hearing the confirmation that this is truly the world he originated from. However, some feelings of anxiety also welled up within him.

With a certainty of almost 100% in the results, it was proven. The child that was dimension drifting for 8 years came back aged by a mere 2 years, so naturally, the organization that arrested him was struggling to comprehend.

「I'm sorry. I've dragged you around the station here and there. This is the first time such a case appeared.....everything just went hectic.」
(Rinko)

「Ah, no, it's alright」(Shinichi)

Therefore, it was necessary to go through some fine procedures at each department to prevent any unwanted circumstances in the future concerning his identity. Since Shinichi himself was surprised, he understood their perplexity and surprise perfectly. In any case, he didn't think a trip around the organization would be bitter or troublesome. In fact, there was a department that had the authority to respond to his special case, so all kinds of legal issues and feedback were cleared just by traveling around the organization. Shinichi was truly grateful. Just.

「.....」(Shinichi)

「A short while ago your family register was revived, so next we'll go to the immigration bureau. It's worthless on the surface, but since you

performed an illegal act of world travel, they may ask you various questions, but I'll follow up, so don't worry.] (Rinko)

Leave it to me, the female officer smiled and clenched her fist tightly. However, her "enthusiasm" just didn't sit well with him. This female officer who was assigned to guide him personally. Her name was Nakamura Rinko. She's also the lady who falls under the stepmother category in his family register because she's his fathers "present" wife. She was the one who discovered the truth and also the one most visibly shaken by it. The male officer who was there had a bitter expression and was against her being the guide, but Rinko was stubborn and did not concede at all until he folded. Her declaration aside, she took care of all the troublesome procedures and hearings, even though she was a member of the organization, she stood by his side and performed perfectly. That's why he was confused at her mysterious behaviour.

「.....」(Shinichi)

「E-erm, I might be unreliable, but this is great since I have acquaintances here and there in the department. It'll be okay. I'll make it so you can live a normal life immediately.」(Rinko)

She must have felt his anxiety. Trying to encourage him, he nodded with an ambiguous expression.

「I-I'll be troubling you.....」(Shinichi)

Although from her expression you could tell she was dissatisfied, she bitterly smiled in order to disguise it and told him to follow her. Shinichi quietly shook his head a little, looking at her back and followed.

——calm down, this is not the time to be confused

After all, every fact has been confirmed. It has been 8 years, and not 2. From his observation, this facility he toured was no joke. Everything from the equipment to personnel was real, credible and even the advanced technological level stunned him. Considering various medical equipment they used on him to check him that produced results in mere minutes, the technology to project a picture in space and interact with it by touch, he was once again reminded that this was real. Truthfully, before the investigation he was boy A that returned through illegal means. There are no magnificent performers or mechanisms that could trick him. The magnitude of it meant it was real. No matter how many doubts arose in his mind, his surroundings confirmed it everytime, 8 years have passed.

Assuming that in 2 years he spent on Farandia he made no mistake in counting the days, the only reason for this discrepancy he could think of was a different time flow in the other dimension. There was also the possibility that one of the trips to or from there took 6 years since there is no concept of time in the space between worlds. Before he returned to Earth from Farandia, the idea of a phenomenon that caused the passage to amount to 6 years on this side was not impossible, theoretically speaking.

「.....am I stupid?」(Shinichi)

——calm down, this is not the time to be confused

He stopped this train of thought right there and shook his head. It's pointless to ponder it at this point, and he was desperately thinking

about it. Just thinking right now is useless as well. He can't find a solution to it, so there's no point in thinking about it now.

What he had to think about, is a personal thing he wants to hear.

2 years ago for the boy, his parents were a happily married couple. It was a combination of a strong mother and a pussy-whipped father, his home was peaceful and his father wasn't dissatisfied. His mother is a cheerful and easy-going person, whilst his father was strict in education but a gentle person. They did fight sometimes but it was childish, a heated lover's quarrel.

That's why.

He could imagine them breaking up after losing him if he was the only child, but he has a younger brother and sister and their relationship with their parents was as good as his. Shinichi doesn't know the reason behind the breakup of his parents. Maybe his family was having problems he didn't know about.

I have to know. This lady knows the answer. Being the current wife of my father, she might know the reason for the divorce. He also wanted to ask where his mother and siblings were.

Without knowing, he wouldn't know where to go.

He had imagined that they weren't waiting for him, but he never assumed that his family broke up. For him his house was a stable place to return to. I want to return. You may not be able to. They might not be

waiting. He was prepared for all these possibilities, but not for the one where his family was broken. He couldn't even imagine it at the time. Thinking about it now, he noticed he never thought of the possibility of someone dying as well. He went dizzy for a moment, thinking about how much he was convinced that they remain unchanged.

And so, from that day when he went missing, 8 and not 2, years have passed. This was shocking, but not as much as his father marrying another woman since it implied divorcing his mother. To top it all off, he now has a half-brother.

He has to hear it.

What happened in these past 8 years. As their son and elder brother he has the right to know.

—I have to ask, no matter what!

...

.....

.....

.....

「Shinichi-kun, you're not sleepy?」

The procedures are pretty much done, I can arrange a room for you to sleep if you want.」(Rinko)

「Ah, it's okay. It was morning when I was over there.」(Shinichi)

After various procedures were done, he noticed it was already "the next morning". When he came back, it was daytime in Farandia. For the sake of the farce, he firmly slept the day before so now, he wasn't sleepy at all. Lying that it was morning was better as it was more convincing.

「Oh, I see. That kind of time difference also occurs.

In Shinichi-kun's case we still don't know where time slipped.」(Rinko)

「Y-yeah.....」(Shinichi)

What are you doing, he thought to himself. If she knew the truth, not even in her wildest dreams could she guess there were other worlds and that that's the reason for the time difference. Her speculation was the same as Shinichi's, that the time difference happened during the trip to or from.

「Ah, you must be hungry. Sorry, I did not notice.

Since the cafeteria is closed, I'll go buy something from the convenience store.」(Rinko)

She stood up, but Shinichi stopped her. However, since he put it so

meekly, she went out saying 「don't be shy」.

「.....what am I doing」(Shinichi)

He was now alone in the room, sitting at the desk in the waiting room, muttering to himself with his head hung low, he had a lot of things to think about, but what he most wanted to say was something about his misery.

「I couldn't ask anything.....」(Shinichi)

About his father, mother, the cause of the divorce, everything. He had to stay with her, here, overnight. There was plenty of time to ask. The person who nonchalantly surprised Satan in front of the whole world, even though it was only a farce, now, couldn't ask anything. Seeing his state, "she" stood with her mouth wide open. This stunned her so she tried to encourage him.

「Kyu, kyuu?」(Fox)

——What happened master?

She was questioning him with cries, so just in case, he smiled wryly. He didn't understand at first, but seeing her confused expression, he could guess it.

「You think it's not like me right?

My bad. But even I can become nervous or shaken.....I can」(Shinichi)

Ongoing.

His mind can't cope with the reality of what happened while he was away. So from his self-analysis he concluded that he subconsciously doesn't want to know more facts. He knew it, but his mouth was quicker than his brain.

「Ah I don't know anymore, how should I say it」(Shinichi)

「What?」(Rinko)

「U-uheeh?」(Shinichi)

Surprised by her suddenly appearing so close in front of him, he panicked and almost fell down from the chair. He quickly soothed his rough breathing and looked at her.

「Ah, I'm sorry. I've surprised you?

When I came in I noticed you were mumbling so I thought there's something here.」(Rinko)

「N-no. Don't worry. But, you were fast」(Shinichi)

If he'd followed the time from the clock in the room, he'd see that not

even 5 minutes have passed. Her hands were full of bags filled with food and drinks.

「Un, there's a kiosk on site and the paid amount will be automatically deducted from your salary. On duty officers have no idea when will they be finished so the cashier was omitted. Just in case, here's a sandwich and various drinks, eat eat.」(Rinko)

(TL: Un-cute version of yes)

「.....Ah, thank you. Itadakimasu」(Shinichi)

He was worried for a moment, but he wasn't one to refuse things offered in good faith. To be more precise, he didn't know how to act with her, so he ended up answering with maximum courtesy possible. He's not supposed to say stuff like that. "Her" open mouth was now open as wide as possible.

「Kyuu, Kyuaa?」(Fox)

Her anticipation and surprise at hearing her Lord's words and deeds have left her blinking and rubbing her eyes. He was not the type of person that isn't polite when speaking, but this was the first time she saw him being polite while he's tense. He didn't even notice her feelings and continued opening the package.

「.....It's something to remember, the way to open」(Shinichi)

He started feeling nostalgic. There was no hesitation in his movement,

pulling down the arrow following the instructions on the package. In these 2 years, he hadn't touched one at all and while doing so, he actually felt surprise and smiled.

「Ah.....」(Shinichi)

「Hamu.....!? The bread is soft! The egg is sweet! Aaah, the sandwich was like this. Like this, un!」(Shinichi)

Being a little excited, Shinichi was absorbed in his egg sandwich. It was on the Farandian menu, but the ingredients were different. This nostalgic taste made his eyes swell with tears. He thought he shouldn't cry over something like this that's mass produced and available in any convenience store, but he couldn't stop.

「.....There's more, you don't have to rush. Which drink would you like?」(Rinko)

Without describing the drinks, she pointed to some PET bottles. His eye colour changed as he trembled while taking the green package in his hand.

「This is.....green tea! Aaah, how nostalgic!」(Shinichi)

「.....Kyui?」(Fox)

He opened the lid, took a bite and poured the liquid down his throat. He could remember the movements to open like it was yesterday, it was still familiar to him. She watched him gently and a tear dropped from her eyes. Since she chose her profession, she watched countless people come

back and enjoy the food after a long time, but when she thought of his situation she couldn't help but feel like crying. In the same room, there was another reaction, "her" jaw was likely to come off her stunned face. They lived a travelling lifestyle, so they always enjoyed decent meals and towns but this was the first time she saw him crying. That made her disturbed.

「Puhaa.....this taste. The taste of tea!

「N, ah, my bad. I was the only one eating and drinking. Here, you too」
(Shinichi)

He noticed he forgot about her being here and apologized, holding out the bread. She was still confused, but she won't decline food offered to her.

「Eh...Kyu, Kyui!?」(Fox)

She was surprised at the softness and taste which differed completely from the ones she ate until now. She spoke almost involuntarily.

「You like that. By your taste I'd say this tuna sandwich is your preference, want to eat?」(Shinichi)

「Kyui!」(Fox)

Shinichi and Rinko smiled at her cries and her becoming captivated with the food after a bite. The fox sensed the reason why her Lord wept. "If he always ate food that tasted like this, I'm convinced."

「You're close. I heard they are creatures that don't like humans」(Rinko)

「Hahaha.....thank you very much for getting her a residence permit to stay here」(Shinichi)

He laughed and bowed his head to avoid questions about how they became close. Shinichi was surprised that she readily went and got a permit, instead of separating him from her, since she's a creature widely recognized and feared.

「Eh, ah, raise your head. It' not like I did something! Because Amaryllis is a highly intelligent creature we have to protect its wishes. Well, if we made an enemy out of it by being cruel, it would be troublesome for us.」(Rinko)

Shinichi nodded with a bitter smile, knowing it was the truth. He didn't know if Tenkorius and Amaryllis were the same, but what he did know is that "her" combat capabilities were quite high. After all, he trained her and he knew about her abilities more than anyone. The judgement to establish a friendly relationship rather than a hostile one was correct. To mess with this race for which it's said that one can destroy a whole country, would be a foolish response. After finishing her tuna sandwich and asking by gesture for another one, terror effect was reduced to nil.

「.....you may eat」(Shinichi)

「Kyui!」(Fox)

It's like she's saying "Then I won't hold back". While struggling to imitate him, she skilfully opened the package with her forefoot and became absorbed again. Rinko had a smile, watching him from the side looking at her warmly. Soft and warm gaze. It's something she knows well.

「When you're doing that you look like "Nobuhiko-san". Ah yeah. Can you turn around Shinichi-kun?」(Rinko)

The moment she mentioned his father's name, she didn't miss the slight reaction that he made and prompted him. Without understanding why, he did as she said. That's when he felt her touch his grown hair from behind.

「Ah, um, what are you doing?」(Shinichi)

「A little. I thought I could cut it here. Together with the food I bought a hairclip.....and we're done!」(Rinko)

Even though she wore a short hairstyle, she was a lady. She casually arranged and lumped together his grown hair.

「Un, I can see your face better than a while ago. It was difficult to tell it was you, but everyone will recognize you immediately with your hair raised.」(Rinko)

He had grown his hair because he was too lazy to cut it and it also doubled as part of a camouflage to change the shape of his face. Hiding eyes or changing hairstyles is something people unexpectedly miss.

「Eh, ah, thank you very much」(Shinichi)

But at the same time it had gone to the level that even his own family couldn't determine it was him. It was, after all, 8 years ago for them while only 2 years have passed for him. 8 years have really passed, but the time difference causes confusion. Shinichi was really thankful that she was concerned and provided for him.

「You're welcome」(Rinko)

Rinko smiled happily at his words. It was too dazzling and warm that he unconsciously averted his gaze. Knowing it would be bad if he left it at that, he looked at her and started talking seriously.

「.....There is something, I want to ask」(Shinichi)

「Yes, I'll answer if I can」(Rinko)

Hearing his serious tone, she corrected her sitting position. Rinko couldn't calm down, she was wondering when he was going to ask her. In this instance, he felt that cutting to the point would be wrong so he started slowly.

「I was surprised by a variety of things and various things happened, but what astonished me the most was.....um, that.....」(Shinichi)

He decided he has to know. Her marriage with his father. The cause of the divorce and the current state of his mother. That was most important for him, so he would know where to go from there. Making up his mind

he started talking again. There was slight hesitation in his voice.

「.....When did the exchange with the different world start?」(Shinichi)

「.....Un.....that, I think, is something that makes me anxious.」
(Rinko)

Although both of them were prepared to ask and to say, but Shinichi's subconscious was more of a coward than he realized. Guessing, it was hard to ask, Rinko kindly diverted the topic. Even "she", fascinated with a sandwich, was stunned by his behaviour again.

「The first contact was 38 years ago. Government officials and diplomats around the world entered negotiations. After the preparations were done secretly, 8 years ago it was announced to the world. It.....was the day after you fell into a dimension hole and ended up on Garesuto.」(Rinko)

「The next day!? So, the reason why I disappeared was.....」(Shinichi)

「Yes, at the same time as that of the announcement, the people drifting started returning and people who were suspected missing or disappeared were being investigated. Because Shinichi-kun disappeared just after, it was authorized as a special missing person case and it was suspected you fell into a dimension hole and a search in Garesuto started. However...」(Rinko)

「I could not be found.」(Shinichi)

「.....I'm sorry」(Rinko)

「Ah, I'm not blaming you, I just wanted to confirm!」(Shinichi)

After all, he was in another world so it was natural. There was no way he could be found in Garesuto where they had conducted their search. He felt a little guilty since it was an useless search. To say the least, he knew the outcome.

「Please don't worry, I was the one in a strange place!」(Shinichi)

「.....Thank you. You're as gentle and kind as what I heard, Shinichi-kun」(Rinko)

He was confused at being praised after he followed up out of selfish reasons. How did father describe him? He sincerely wanted to know. Somehow, he also felt insecure. There was also an inevitable mystery in the conversation they had, that they have yet to come to. If the presence of another world was unexpected, then what caused him to disappear would be beyond unexpected.

「But the Nature Reserve you were at, wasn't searched at all. The truth is, we were unable to. Our technology could not cope with the organisms and environment there.」(Rinko)

「.....Even if someone is there, survival is hopeless」(Rinko)

More so if a junior high school student from Japan wandered in. That place couldn't be searched even if someone thought of the possibility of him being there, or if they ordered it to be searched. It was determined

that it was a waste of resources to even try. Rinko remained silent after she said it, but that was a statement in and of itself. He was relieved that they didn't devote personnel to search for him, but his downcast face and sorrowful expression made it apparent how he felt about them giving up.

「But! Nobuhiko-san believed in your survival! He had always been waiting!」(Rinko)

She leaned closer in to the point of falling from her chair. This sudden outburst of hers, while staring at him to believe her, surprised him.

「So, I'm really glad. That Shinichi-kun is alive, really, uu, aa, I'm sorry」(Rinko)

Looking at that same face from the many photos she'd seen all those times, a variety of emotions welled up inside her and hot tears leaked from the inner corners of her eyes. The strong feeling of it really being him and really coming back welled up inside her.

「Ah, no.....」(Rinko)

The boy was confused. Why is she so glad I've returned? She wept in joy, but she didn't actually know him from before and he did not know what to do.

「Sniff, uhhh, actually. About a month ago, simultaneous searches for non-returnees have been performed. A device that can scan the entirety of Garesuto has been used to do it. It had been extensively advertised that it is meant for recovery and search.....」(Rinko)

She said so with a hint of regret and anger. She felt that they did an unnecessary thing, because his father Nobuhiko entrusted his last hope in the search. Consequently, many non-returnees were found in regions with low or no people at all, excluding the Nature Reserve. The simultaneous search was a plan formed to find such people.

「But I was.....not found」(Shinichi)

「Yeah, you could not be found. He behaved cheerfully in front of us but he was always bitter. Sometimes I even found him in the middle of the night crying while looking at your picture. That's why.....I'm glad that Shinichi-kun is alive!」(Rinko)

She kept repeating the word thanks with her eyes full of tears. He was finally convinced about her true attitude. This person seriously appreciated his comeback. She had seriously thought about his father. She must really love his father. He felt pain in his chest thinking about his father believing in his return for 8 whole years. Her being so considerate towards him and crying was no act. He was ashamed of his suspicion towards her kindness.

「A little while ago I finally contacted Nobuhiko-san. He was very happy, he should be here soon.」(Rinko)

「Eh」(Shinichi)

Wiping off her tears, she told him happily. However, this resulted in the tension rising up again. The fact that they'd be meeting so suddenly made him fearful, even though it was something he wanted to hear. It's

because of the large time difference and the changes in his family in those 6 years that he did not anticipate meeting them so soon. Rinko saw through his fear, so she sensitively told him:

「Umm.....I think it's strange for me to speak about these things. But I think it's better to let you know in advance——」(Rinko)

「——Shinichi!!!」

She was abruptly interrupted by a person. There was a loud sound of opening the waiting room's door that was made by a large man in a suit. A man in his forties sweating profusely.

「Nobuhiko-san!?」(Rinko)

「F-Father?」(Shinichi)

Both of them stood up in surprise since he appeared much earlier than expected. Catching his breath, the man's appearance looked slightly older than from his memories. Nevertheless, it was indeed, without a doubt, his father, Nobuhiko Nakamura.

「Ah, ahhh, Shinichi!」(Nobuhiko)

The hair length was different, but he wasn't mistaken about his son's face. Unable to express himself with words, he hugged his son.

「Uu, aa, I'm glad! You were alive after all! Shinichi, Shinichi, Shinichi!!」

「F-Father, hey.....」(Shinichi)

It was the first time he heard his father's feeble cries and felt his strong embrace and it made him confused. It was obvious that he wasn't accustomed to such intensity but he couldn't shake off his father. He felt warmth and his mind relaxed.

「.....Looks like it will be okay」

「Captain Kayama」(Rinko)

Peaking from the entrance, her senior officer said it in a low voice. In case Shinichi's family came, it should've been reported to Rinko, but Nobuhiko rushed here and the report was slower.

「My bad. I said that some time is needed for the mental preparation, but I didn't know your husband was such a forceful person.」(Kayama)

No, there's no need, she shook her head looking at her husband hugging Shinichi. She smiled brightly because she knew how much he waited for this moment.

「Oh, ah, sorry it's in use.....」(Kayama)

He didn't last long, there was no stopping them. Kayama was standing in front of the door, but a woman with two children pushed him away. When Rinko noticed them, she froze immediately.

「It can't be, I even ordered them not to inform them yet.」(Rinko)

Unbeknownst to her, either by mistake or coincidence, during the procedure of reviving the family register the information slipped and got into their hands. Looking at the results, the first report was probably sent yesterday.

「Ah, mother.....」(Shinichi)

Shinichi noticed them late because his line of sight was blocked by his father. He was now cursing his self-developed observational skills. Why wouldn't it remain dull a bit more? He was displeased with it and wanted to tell himself it's a misplaced grudge, but after saying "mother" he locked up.

「Eh, ah, you guys also came! Look here, it's Shinichi! He's still alive!」
(Nobuhiko)

He was in seventh heaven so he couldn't see that both his son and ex-wife were upset. He pushed his son in front of her.

「Tsk」

Shinichi's breath was clogged. In front of him, it was definitely his mother and his siblings, but her face which was supposed to be the same age as his father's was visibly more tired and older while his siblings emitted a sense of "hostility".

That is why in those faces of his mother and his siblings he found no feelings of joy.

Instantly, it was like a cold wind blew in his chest extinguishing the warmth his father gave him with his embrace. He felt that he should say something but his voice wasn't coming out. His mother's face did not accentuate the same feelings that his father's did. Passion started rising within her, visible on the face that was calm upon entry. It's not a good kind of passion since her lips are trembling with feelings.

Something is wrong. He knew it but couldn't bring himself to speak. Under the influence of the maximum amount of embarrassment, agitation and fear, he couldn't move as freely as he should have.

「L-Lies」(Mother)

「Eh?」(Nobuhiko)

The surprised voice came from Nobuhiko. Shinichi did not say anything. That's why he heard these fatal words while on his feet.

「There's no way that child is Shinichi! That child is already dead!! Shinichi, there's no reason he could still be alive!!!」(Mother)

There was visible madness in his mother's dark eyes but before his brother or sister could react, it was her former husband that reacted faster than anyone.

「What!? You're "still" saying such a thing!! He's right here, it's Shinichi!

He's our child, he's finally back!!」(Nobuhiko)

「What do you understand! You "don't know anything" about Shinichi! That child went to a different world, there's no reason for him to be alive!!」(Mother)

「Look at his face! Even the DNA is the same! Who else can it be but Shinichi! And you call yourself a mother!!」(Nobuhiko)

「But he's an all D! What's with that?! Garesuto isn't a place where such a weak child can survive! Are you trying to make a fool out of us!?」
(Mother?)

His mother that wouldn't recognize him and his father trying to make her admit it's their son. In the heated quarrel between the former spouses there wasn't a speck of the feelings for each other that were there once before.

「Why is it!? You're a parent too, why is it that you're not happy your child is alive!!」(Nobuhiko)

「The same goes for you! You're a parent, why can't you understand that it's impossible for that child to be alive!?」(Mother)

「Saori-san sto-!?」(Rinko)

Rinko who knew the circumstances, knew it would turn out like this. That's why she tried to stop them, as the person in question was present, but she was stopped. She restrained herself when she recognized whose

arm it was that grabbed the hem of her jacket.

「Shinichi, -kun?」(Rinko)

「.....」(Shinichi)

Quietly looking at his quarrelling parents, he was contemplating their state. He quietly shook his head with an expressionless face much like the one he had during interrogation. If you'd looked at the other arm, you could see he was suppressing a creature that was ready to attack at any moment. Seeing that, Rinko's eyes became hot again, but for another reason. However, if she thought about it calmly, she couldn't afford to cry. This ruckus was too much.

「.....Both of you, calm yourselves in front of the children. There are also various procedures remaining so you'll talk there. I'll leave the rest to you.」(Kayama)

Kayama also noticed the boy's attitude so he took the former spouses to a separate room. Maybe it was the words of the third party that calmed them down and made them obediently follow, but their eyes were full of mistrust and denial.

「.....」

「.....」

「.....」

「.....」

Four people and an animal were left. "Her" mouth is being suppressed and she couldn't raise a voice, but no one started talking so the room was filled with silence. The image in front of him of his brother and sister that grew in 8 years, was that of full-fledged boys and girls. In his memory, their childish and uneasy steps that followed him were now gone. Above all, the girl's face was full of rage.

「It's because of you」(Sister)

「！」(Shinichi)

A curse-like voice that sounded like it crawled out from the bottom of the Earth. It was filled with rage and resentment that immobilised an already frozen Shinichi. This statement was the intro to an outburst of her feelings that were kept inside for so long that it felt like a dam had collapsed.

「How could you! She finally returned to normal! Finally she started laughing like back in the old days! Because you came back after all this time! Why did you have to come back!!」(Sister)

「M-My God!?」(Rinko)

Her words were no longer thorns but straight out drawn swords. It was far from being painful. It was like someone cut his flesh from his chest, that's how deep it struck him. It left him breathless. Rinko tried to stop

her but he wouldn't let her so it continued.

「Just how much do you want to torment us!? The family falling apart, mother's suffering, it's all your fault! Moreover, all D, what's with that!? How dare you come back with such a shameful rank!!」(Sister)

Her angry eyes filled with murderous aura disturbed him more than anything that has happened until now. However, his facial expression remained unchanged, rooted at "nothing". If he were to be tipped from this precarious balance he was holding himself at, even he didn't know what would happen to him, but to her watching him, it seemed like he was having a nonchalant attitude.

「.....Hey, say something! What's with that face!? Don't play with me!! After tormenting us now you're ignoring me!? Someone like you, someone like you.....should have died!!」(Sister)

The words flowing from her mouth pierced him heavily, but still there was no reaction – he couldn't react – and so the girl fled from the room. With the corner of his eye he thought he saw something sparkling in the air left after she stormed out. Must have been his imagination.

「Ah, wait, sister!」(Brother)

Unconsciously, the boy tried to chase after her, but stopped himself near the entrance. He looked to his elder brother who didn't move an inch and chose his words carefully, putting his feelings into it.

「.....Bro.....everyone knows it's not your fault. But, but, you know.....

from that day our family was finished!」(Brother)

Even if it wasn't anyone's fault it couldn't continue. Even if Shinichi didn't disappear, something would break. After he had finished with his monologue, his brother stormed off after his sister.

「Ah, wait a minute!」(Rinko)

Up to this point, Rinko was stopped by Shinichi, so now she silently called out to them, but to no avail. The girl vigorously ran out while the boy went after her. She was intensely emotional, while he was relatively calm. It was dangerous to be in such an emotionally unstable state. But even so.

「Please go. It will be scary if you leave them alone.」(Shinichi)

「What!?」(Rinko)

Out of all the people, you're the one to say it. Rinko caught him by the shoulders from the front and looked straight into his face. It would be easier if you'd just let your emotions out, yelling and scattering and crying your eyes out. You can't even see any emotion on his expressionless, masked face. It was a painful thing to look at that made her want to cry. However, staff members, other than hers elf, do not know the circumstances of the – former – family and the facility itself is complicated. This was making her more anxious. She knew it was appropriate for her who was familiar with them, to go looking for them. If only the boy in front of her eyes wasn't the most dangerous one.

「Both of them, at their roots, are the wild type. Locate them quickly, if you bring them together they will settle down.」(Shinichi)

「Wait, wait Shinichi-kun! It's different! Many things have changed in these 8 years, and it was a hard time for everyone to get used to it, so!」(Rinko)

It's not your fault. She was desperately trying to prove that that young girl's words were not her true feelings. It's just that his luck was bad, even on the day he fell into that world. The day he returned as well as the location where he returned, he was just unlucky.

「I know.

.....I'm sorry, but to tell you the truth I want to be『alone』for a little while」(Shinichi)

「.....I get it. I'll be back right away, so do not leave this place!」(Rinko)

When a person with such a smile told her he wants to be alone, the only thing she could do was withdraw. However, she ran out of the room only after making her point clear. In the end, he was left standing alone in the room consumed by silence. Immediately after, he collapsed on the chair and leaned on its backrest. His expression remained unchanged, but he lost all strength in his limbs.

「.....Where are you going」(Shinichi)

The voice he addressed her with sounded heavy. She was moving

without a sound so she wouldn't be noticed, but upon hearing his voice, she was startled and her body trembled. Looking at the ceiling, he was still able to grasp her movements.

「I'm thankful for the feeling, but restrain yourself」(Shinichi)

「Tsk, bu-but, I cannot forgive them for such a protest against you! They don't even know how much master thought about them!」(Fox)

The voice that was restrained up until now, exploded with feelings that were kept in check. Raising her voice in this place, he felt her strong feelings and it made him smile faintly. He knew what cowardly words he had to use to stop her.

「Thank you, but.....please, don't leave me『alone』 now」(Shinichi)

「！」

It was requested of her, so she couldn't leave him now. She jumped on his shoulder and leaned her body on his cheek so her body temperature may be transmitted. His expression became gentle upon feeling the soft warm fur along his cheek. His feelings were stirred in the process——while gently stroking her head, he reminisced about how it became like this.

Half of the reason why he listened to their outburst was to hear their emotions. That is because the truth lies in the words that come out of raw and bare emotions. He could guess the current state with information obtained in that manner. There was no clear explanation from anyone –

the attitude of the staff, the course of the investigation, the quarrelling of his parents, changes in his mother, words from his brother and sister and the exchange with the other world. Connecting the fragmented information he had, he could have a rough estimate of the situation and what happened over the years. He hated that it was all possible due to his rich imagination.....or his deplorable stupidity that he didn't even think this turn of events possible.

—After all, it's my fault

Everything happened because of him falling into a dimension hole, the start of his life in Farandia and the end of his family as it was. Shinichi had no choice but to return immediately if he wanted to return to the "home" he knew and hoped for. He fell into a different world and couldn't be found, the difference in his parents' behaviour towards him and the newly flowing knowledge and common sense from this connected world of Garesuto. The current situation was because his parents couldn't fit together. The luck of Shinichi's former family was just bad.

The other half of the reason why he remained silent was that he must have subconsciously guessed it. It seemed it would be better if he accepted their anger. If he didn't which side would really get broken?

It's all so ironic. Precisely because she understood and deeply loved her child, her mother couldn't believe he could survive the harshness of another world. The father who couldn't understand her pessimism was constantly fighting and swearing with her like now, without supporting her. These were the reasons that led to the divorce and the destruction of his mother's balanced spirit. It was needless to say anything about the feelings of his sister who has been desperately trying to make his mother recover only for it to all crumble down by his return.

———Ahh, really, I always do the unnecessary things

Author's notes:

(TL: I summed up his notes):

If I were to follow up, the mother's side actually rushed over immediately to fix things. The reason for it would be his brother's words.

KmF: Arc-2, Chapter-1: Do not make fun of my mother!

"N-gu, it hurts, it huurts"

"Hiii, do not come closer!"

"Where? Where is he?"

"Stop it, stop it, stoooop it"

"I'm scared, it's dark, hii-guh"

A child is crying all the time.

A child fell down and hurt himself.

Like a scared puppy, a child ran away.

A child lost his parent in a crowd, and is now lost himself.

A child is being bullied.

In the middle of the night, a child awoke.

Every child of the same age is different.

The places are also different.

The reason behind my tears is also different.

But none of the above are the same child.

—————Help me, mother!!

「G-Good morning」(Shinichi)

「Ah, u-un. Good morning」(Rinko)

She, Nakamura Rinko, was slightly puzzled by his words of common morning greeting. It was not the first time he greeted her. It was just different from what she imagined.

「I'm sorry, did I wake you up?」(Rinko)

She tried to apologize, but his face told her "there's no need to apologize". He was up on the futon, a little drowsy, but that stopped her from finishing what she started. She only planned to do what was "appropriate for a parent", but as soon as she opened the door, he jumped up and was prepared to fight.

「.....No. It's the time I usually get up at」(Shinichi)

He replied, wiping his expression off his face. Rinko never encountered such an attitude before. It was probably the door that woke him up. Because of his caution. Even in sleep, he was intensely sensitive to any signs of movement around him. That was necessary for him "in the past". Identify someone from behind. Sense someone standing behind the door, and so on. When recalling his past life and thinking about his life today, there was one difference – manners. Rinko thought that it was sad, but she still smiled.

「Breakfast for Amaryllis –chan will be over in a minute. Change your clothes and put them in the laundry basket」(Rinko)

「Ah, yes. Thank you very much」(Shinichi)

「Fufu, don't worry about it. Don't worry about it. Because we're family」(Rinko)

Feeling a little embarrassed, the boy laughed and nodded with a troubling look on his face. She thought she shouldn't worry about the bewilderment and pain that she was suppressing, considering all that has happened. Rinko came down to the dining room on the first floor because they had to wait for everyone. There was no sadness on her face, but in her mind she was thinking "even if I'm impatient, it's worthless". Meanwhile, hearing the sound of descent down the stairs, the boy breathed out in relief.

「Kyui, kyui」(Fox)

He shook his head when he heard the anxious cries near his feet.

「I'm fine, it was just a nightmare. Today it was embarrassing content.....I wish it was. It's painful to see now.」(Shinichi)

A mother is the main figure and force behind a little child. Even while wearing a fake smile and laughing feebly, you can look up at her and see the sadness in her eyes, but she still won't say a thing. Child that is nothing more than a crybaby and a wimp does nothing but embarrass his own mother. The feeling of pain was far apart from the one of embarrassment.

It was the sixth day after his return from Farandia. He-Nakamura Shinichi, started his new life as a part of the new Nakamura family. After his experience, this peaceful everyday life is a strange thing for him.

Little time was needed for the Nakamura family to finish their breakfast. Toast, bacon and an egg with salad were today's menu. Either the new Nakamura family is a western food lover or there are a lot of those menus. It turns out Rinko misunderstood something a bit, but it was all cleared up later. The people unaware of the fact were washing dishes side by side in the sink.

Thanks to that, they ate until they were satisfied. She-Amaryllis was dozing off in the living room. There are two reasons she dozed off, one, because she felt anxious and was guarding him through the night so she didn't sleep, and two, because warm sunlight on her skin, coupled with a full stomach made her drowsy. Shinichi was cleaning when he saw her and signaled his approval with his eyes. She was suddenly attacked by a partner larger than her.

「Kyaa-u!」

「Kyuui!?」

One of her swaying tails was suddenly grasped and pulled. Reflexively, she was about to take a mid-attack posture, but when she recognized the “one” responsible for this, she gave up midway.

「Ah, oh!」

「Kyuu!!??」

She was held at the half-point of her tail and forced to hang like that. Both Rinko, cleaning, and Nobuhiko, reading the newspaper, became pale in an instant. His partner is a protected animal. It's not possible to keep her, but she won't get away from Shinichi, so she's living in the house. Thankfully, there was a law in place that respected the creature's intentions.

Originally from the danger zone on Garesuto where creatures constantly fight for domination, this is a look at her status, worthy of her reputation.

Scientific Name: Amaryllis Fox

Gender: Female

Total Length: 47cm

Length: 32cm

Weight: 3.2kg

Strength: AA+

Stamina: AAA

Spirit: A+

Endurance: AA

Agility: AAA+

(TL: My first table on wordpress sucks xD, I'm still experimenting so it might change in the future)

They don't know it, but there are more stats, her magic is AAA and her skill is C+ rank. Skill may seem inferior to other stats, but if you were to compare it to others on Farandia it's already top-notch. She takes pride in her high rank and could easily kill a baby with a swing of her tail. She never separated from Shinichi up until now. She was quiet so she had been forgotten. Looking from afar, it seemed like an emergency, like a giant dragon with three necks in the eyes of the couple. Their son tried hard to trample her tail, but she didn't have the slightest intention to hurt the baby.

「Aii, kyaa-wa-!」

「KyuiiKyuii!!」

"Please stop it younger brother!

Aaiiya the tail's coming off! Please stop!!"

Are you going to stop him? It's a child from a different mother, but it's still his younger brother. Further on, it's a little baby that doesn't know anything. She can't raise a hand against a little baby. All the while, the couple were at a loss for words, completely stunned, frozen in place. Shinichi slowly lifts up the little fearless baby that made her into a toy.

「n, yaa-, a-!!」

「Kyukyuu!」

「Hey Shinji, no.....it hurts hurts. She'll cry cry you know?」

While holding the baby, Shinichi gave an example of opening and closing the hand so the little baby could see. Then the baby repeated his movement and let her tail go.

「nn, nai, nai」

「Kyuu, kyuuu.....」

「Un, great Shinji.....sorry」

Did he understand what Shinichi said or was it pure imitation? Anyways, he praised Shinji by stroking his head for being obedient and promptly letting off her tail. He turned and apologized to her with a wry smile, however since she was just freed she escaped to a small distance away from him and the baby. She shook her head left and right implying she doesn't mind.

「Da-uu-, ya-!」

「Oh, oh. Well, cheer up.

Now, how did you get out of the bed?」

He vigorously moved both of his hands as if he wanted to appeal to his older brother to play with him. Shinichi turned to Rinko, she nodded and he then proceeded to play with his younger brother. Amaryllis was watching them from a distance with a calm but gentle expression on her face.

「.....The first time they met face-to-face, I'm surprised Shinji accepted him so well. I guess it's expected, they are brothers after all.....」
(Nobuhiko)

She was glad, the sight was very heartwarming for her, since she thought her child was considerably shy and wouldn't so easily play with a stranger. Dealing with Shinji, Shinichi's face revealed an exceedingly gentle and soft expression.

「It could be also that Shinichi is good at dealing with babies, a quality from his past family life.. He takes care of the baby well.....really」
(Nobuhiko)

It was his father talking about him, recalling the past. Therefore, it's a little sad, since the brother with whom he should be on good terms distanced himself. If her opinion is accepted, maybe this reunion is lucky. Well, thinking about such things now is only denying the current happiness.

「You.....」(Nobuhiko)

It was harsh to watch him, as his wife, retreating deeply into his thoughts and not finding the answer.

「.....Shinichi-kun looks happy, look」(Rinko)

Half-guessing, she pointed at the scene of the two sons playing together. He was all smiles, playing by screaming and waving a toy for his brother, since a baby can't communicate, the same way he remembered his father playing. His son, lost in a harsh environment for 8 years had not changed and the sight moved him to tears.

「Aah, that's right. Good.....Shinichi really made it back home.」
(Nobuhiko)

With an overwhelming smile, Rinko continues speaking.

「I'm happy too. That I could give Shinichi a younger brother. And that our son is able to be a brother to Shinichi.」

It was her who had given him the name 『Shinji』, because he is the younger brother of the, until recently, missing 『Shinichi』. He was glad, but still didn't want to name him 『Shinji』, but since she was persistent, unyielding and thought it was good, he succumbed and the baby was named 『Shinji』.

「Thank you, I'm really taken care of by you.」(Rinko)

「That's why we're married. I will take care of you even more in the future!」(Nobuhiko)

The husband, a year older than his wife, was smiling wryly, his chest beating. In his mind, he felt deep indebtedness to her.

「W-Well.....as expected of a man. I want to do my best to earn even a little bit more.」(Nobuhiko)

「Yes yes, I'll be patiently waiting for you～」(Rinko)

The difference between general trading company workers and elites was too much, therefore she turned her gaze to her sons, ignoring her husband's disheartened voice. The scene was one of a distant brother and a one-year-old brother playing together and yet, it has only been a few days since returning and coming to live with them. To Rinko and his father he seems like an ordinary boy with complicated circumstances.

That's why it makes her angry she has to monitor him.

Just remembering the playful manner in which her superior ordered her makes her tremble in anger because only she can understand how long her husband has waited for him to come home. And then, just hearing his joyous voice when he came back home. And immediately after, the order which she couldn't agree on came without a moment's notice.

8 years ago, an organization, to which she belongs, dealing with problems from the different world was established. At that time, technology and knowledge about it was released to the public. Since

then, people from Garesuto and Earth began to interchange. Adjustments have been made on a political level, but nonetheless, various problems appear here and there in a private exchange. From the beginning, several corresponding sections have been prepared beforehand for things that were to be expected. For example, the crimes committed on Garesuto are in the jurisdiction of a peace maintaining organization called『Different world crime control』, made to respond to the high technology and crimes committed in the different world. The post Nakamura Rinko belongs to is a mobile unit that single-handedly undertakes first response situations at the Japanese branch office. It's hard work, going first to the site, assessing the situation and making a report. However, there is a lack of good photon handling personnel. In accordance with that, they're treated as high rank – high payment. The welfare program is perfect and she felt no problems upon her return from maternity leave. On Garesuto, such a mobile team dealing with first contact is equipped with photon tools. Their missions range from arresting illegal travelers or preventing and neutralizing the illegal transport of goods. Rinko wasn't surprised such an instruction has been made.

「.....monitor Shinichi!? Eh, wha-what do they mean by that!？」(Rinko)

It was the third day after his return. That very day they left him alone at home. Top management officials transferred from the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department and ordered her to do it. Surprised, she asked again to confirm the order. From her perspective, this person ordering her is only interested in achievements and rising up the ranks in his career. He seemed the type of person that sparks a psychological aversion in everyone he meets, in a manner that anyone dealing with him will think he lacks something as a person. She is a person who follows orders she can respect, but for this one she required an explanation.

「You, I want to know why」(Rinko)

Her question is troublesome, but realizing she won't move without him answering it to some extent, he started logically listing reasons with a cold, emotionless voice.

「Nakamura Shinichi.

He definitely matches various data about his identity. He should have been dimension drifting in the dangerous area for 8 years, but he was only there for 2 years. I do not know the specificity of this abnormality.」(Unknown officer, explanation mode)

Though his tone was polite, it sent shivers through her spine and she couldn't retort. It was a phenomenon she herself and everyone else around her thought was unnatural. The whereabouts of this junior high school student in a dimensional drift for 8 years were unknown. He should have been over twenty, had he actually lived through those 8 years. Disregarding his haircut, his face would have matured and become one of a high school student. Even she was able to recognize Shinichi from a picture. Further on, he couldn't hide his surprise about the year being 2022. Considering it all, it is highly unlikely that he is acting.

「You know it too, but if you fall in a dimension hole, you end up in Garesuto. For time slips to appear in the reverse travel is rare. However, it is usually just one month more or less, two months at maximum. A time slip of 6 years is impossible, but it actually happened.」(Unknown officer uses condescending tone)

It is difficult to believe, but his body was examined. Since the result

confirmed he was 15 years old, there was no choice but to admit it happened. On the other hand, when Garesuto was scanned a month ago, he was not found. It could be that he fell into a dimension hole and drifted back one month later and that was the mainstream opinion so that minor detail wasn't considered a problem.

「Wh-What connection does that have with the order for him to be monitored? It is certainly unnatural, but even scientists in Garesuto don't completely understand dimension drifting!」(Rinko)

The fact is that, statistically speaking, a time lapse of around one month was the limit. It is also said that time doesn't exist in the space between dimensions. There is no harm for flesh and blood creatures if they are there, between dimensions, for such a short time. However, staying in that place for 6 years is impossible.

「Certainly, there is no need to move out just for that. His unnaturalness is not only in that Nakamura-san」(Unknown officer being a smug bastard)

As if this case was his favourite, the officer showed her what he meant by "another unnatural thing".

「There was an investigation of the place where he returned in order to further confirm it was Garesuto he returned from, and according to a report from an analysis group they couldn't identify if it was Garesuto, in fact they couldn't even trace it.」(Unknown officer, back to explanation mode)

「Eh, but they should have been dispatched because there was a report that a hole has opened」(Rinko)

「Correct. Therefore there should be traces of it opening. However, they do not know where it is. Technically there is a trace of energy left when migrating from one world to the other as a drift trace back. It was never found despite the fact that he just arrived.」(Unknown officer, investigation 101 lesson)

Quite the contrary, it was said that there was no trace of something coming through. Since he wasn't detected, they thought it was just a dimension hole.

「It is possible that someone erased the traces, that was concluded from the situation by the analysis group. Since he passed through, it was ascertained it was not natural. After receiving the report, it was determined in the office that it was something different from the usual dimension drift.」(Unknown officer, having a brain, unlike someone in this novel)

「I would understand if I was ordered to investigate that, but why the order to monitor him?」(Rinko)

It was logical, but that still doesn't explain the order to monitor him. She could understand if it was an order to investigate and interrogate, but the reason why it was needed to monitor him was beyond her.

「The selected approach for this matter comes from various upper echelons. There is a good chance that someone else has passed together with him illegally. He himself as someone with an all D status is out of the question. Amaryllis has high ability, but to erase traces of high technology, no matter how knowledgeable she is, is impossible for her.」(Unknown officer, throwing the ball in someone else's court)

It's reasonable to think that there is a third party involved and it's highly unlikely that it's hiding in this office where they are, right in the middle of the Department.

「A guy using something like an invisible cloak to escape is possible. There is a chance he will come to Nakamura Shinichi's home. Even if it's a remote possibility he might come there, I won't take any chances. I will find him.」(Unknown officer, an unexpected gambler)

「Bu-But he was in a danger area where no one can enter. How was he supposed to meet someone.....」(Rinko)

「The only evidence are his testimony and Amaryllis. The main habitat for that creature is there, but it could be somewhere else too.」(Unknown officer, mercilessly crushing her arguments)

「But if he was in another location, he would have returned by regular means already!」(Rinko)

Ever since first contact 8 years ago, the Garesuto side was very thorough. She assumed it was one of the cards they played in their negotiations with Earth and even now, that hasn't changed. To many people in that world who know of Earth, black-haired Japanese individuals stand out and are easily found. Another reason they are found so quickly is that everyone in that world is obliged to help by the order of their leaders. The only way for them not to be found is if they are in an area that even people from Garesuto cannot enter. Anticipating her reasoning, the officer struck preemptively.

「Indeed, but it took two years for him to commit a crime, if not then, it was just a matter of time until he committed it. In fact, that a child with such low abilities is under protection from Amaryllis for 2 years is just miraculous, don't you think? The creatures there have all A at the least.『I was in another place in that world committing a crime and couldn't be found』. Something like that, I think is a realistic idea.」(Unknown officer, being judge, jury and executioner)

「I understand what you're saying, but after all, it's just circumstantial evidence. What, since I just met him after 8 years and since I didn't know him before, him being my stepson suddenly clouds my judgment!？」
(Rinko)

He heard her, knowing it wasn't even a long-shot to paint her as an accomplice, it was the Hail Mary of Hail Mary's. The six years of difference will be investigated by monitoring him. She has gone too far asking to live in the same house and stepped outside of her bounds. Suddenly, gasping, Rinko realized something and a certain concern appeared on her face.

「No way. Is that why the adopting was faster than usual?」(Rinko)

After he was discovered, his birth and parentage already became clear by the third day. Testing and listening still continued normally. And yet, Shinichi was done exceptionally fast and left in the care of the Nakamura house. When she finally realized and asked if that was the reason, the officer nodded.

「You're quite perceptive. Generally, it's also because the result of the physical examination was normal. It's good luck for us that you're his father's wife. It's easy to monitor him. He would be monitored outside,

but inside the house it would be difficult.] (Unknown officer, revealing his evil plan)

Stating the facts with a cold voice. So selfish. She was already boiling with anger towards him who doesn't care about others feelings. Still, if she were to throw a fit in rage here, she supposed there would be some serious consequences.

「.....Being in charge is no different. The information team and search team do not have any leads. This order is for you to disregard your family relationship. Usually, it's normal for someone in this position to be removed from duty, so consider yourself lucky.」 (Unknown officer, showing his tender side)

From what the officer said, she surmised that for them it is no problem. And considering she was ordered by a superior, any problem will be cleared. Since it's personal, they know she can't be trusted, but they also know she has the ability to run a criminal down. Also, she wanted to know what was happening here.

「Although you are missing that kind of expertise, you are aware that people living together decide together.」 (Unknown officer, captain obvious is obvious)

——Thank you very much for the praise!

Rinko bit her lip in order not to sarcastically retort. This is the first time she had a bone to pick with a superior officer, even his metaphor made her embarrassed.

「Even though you are his parent now, you just met the other day. He will not suspect you, after all, you have to spend time together. Do your duty and disclose Shinichi Nakamura's mask.」(Unknown officer, an unnaturally perceptive fella)

「！」

Thinking back on this conversation, Rinko felt she needed to congratulate herself for not losing to rage.

—The man, knowing the circumstances only from the report, selfishly orders her how to behave!

She wanted to knock him down and use him as a punching bag. Even though he is only formally her boss, he got that position due to hard work, because Rinko actually outranks him. Using violence is, naturally, not allowed. (Why? It's perfectly normal) Shinichi's face appeared in her mind and she calmed down. A face too quiet and too sad, understanding that 8 years have passed for his family members. There was no choice, no mistake. It was correct. That's the case. He didn't blame his mother and sister for what they said and he stoically accepted it all. Recalling what he said, with a deadpan face, sorrow quickly overcame her anger.

「.....I understand」

She accepted her duty so calmly that even she was surprised. She decided to protect him, since if she refused, the alternative was surely much worse. Given appropriate justification, this organization could take him away from them. Although it was fortunate they were able to meet (Shinichi, his father and her), she did not want to add to this man's

accomplishments. If that makes it easier for them to monitor him, she took the opportunity and returned home. That's all she could do to let Shinichi and Nobuhiko spend time as a family. Anyways, it's not like anyone from the Department, except her, knows what happens inside the house. Her mind was firmly set, and she decided——

Nobody noticed a white mask watching all of them the whole time.

The orders couldn't force Rinko to monitor properly. Everyday her report to the superiors was "an ordinary boy". They would doubt it if it was completely the same every day, so she changed it a bit every time, because it was dangerous to report the events correctly to them. However, this did nothing to alleviate her worries. Could she succeed in deceiving, considering how persistent the authorities are?

「Un, it's okay. I'll protect him」(Rinko)

Even if they aren't related by blood, he is still related to her in the family register. Of course he will never call her mother. She also didn't completely think him a part of her family because he was her husband's child. That was enough for her. Her motherly instincts arose when she saw him enduring it all that day. That also helped her become a better mother.

「What was that. Did you say something?」(Nobuhiko)

「Eh, ah, no! I-I thought of making something Shinichi-kun likes for lunch!」(Rinko)

「It was breakfast a short while ago and look, it's already noon?」is the sentence that was written all over her face, so she rushed with asking about the lunch. She had a feeling her husband thought something improper, but in the end discarded that thought.

「Ah, I see. I forgot that you're a glutton. I think Rinko's favorite will be fine with Shinichi.....」(Nobuhiko)

「Eh, I-I'm not gluttonous! I just eat more because I practice and have more physical strength than a normal person!」(Rinko)

Beet red in the face, she was denying all he said. It's because she heard him say that she eats more than she works.

「Yes, is that so? When I met you for the first time, you finished a large steak serving before the time limit! I think that you'd easily succeed in challenging the menu.」(Nobuhiko)

「Wa!!

Please don't say that in front of the children! It's embarrassing!」(Rinko)

Rinko prevented him in saying it loudly, but she didn't notice that that actually drew more attention. Nobuhiko, on the other hand, was smiling happily.

「Isn't it fine? Because I was surprised at that I met you」(Nobuhiko)

「Such a beginning of love is not something you go telling around!」
(Rinko)

Hearing what he said, Rinko was making —kyaa—noises. This only encouraged her husband. He was enjoying it. Like father, like son. Shinichi truly takes after him. From the conversation, Amaryllis concluded they were similar.

「.....you're flirting in front of.....the children?」(Shinichi)

「U—u—, a—?」

Hearing his son's reaction, he sighed. His younger brother nodded in his place, while he was moving him up and down. It made him smile, but there was also a hint of worry at the back of his mind. How could he erase what he just heard from his mind. He patted Shinji's head and put a smile on his face to cheer up. In the end, there's nothing he can do about it.

——Happiness of the family I had, disappeared because of me.

The sight of this happy family was heartwarming, but there was also a slight pain.

Kmf: Arc-2, Chapter-2: Mistake

—Walking through the tunnel,

There was a different world—

On a huge monitor at the end of the street there were men, bathed in flashes of light, shaking hands. They were the prime minister of Japan and the president of Garesuto, united in their appeal to the country and the worlds for good relations between them. The people on the street just ignored the monitor and kept walking to their respective destinations. This was usual for them? Among them, only one boy held his breath. For the first time since he came back, he felt a strange sense of loneliness. He shook his head, there is no reason for me to feel lonely, but he didn't know where he was. All around him, people were passing by with strange terminals he'd never seen before. Then, there were new buildings that weren't there before. His memory of his world and this street corner were completely different. New fashion he spotted gave him the creeps. In the store window, mysterious metal armors were lined up. Even here in downtown, self-defense officials "seemed" like they were making their rounds. People's hair, other than the standard blond, black and brown, now had other colours which nobody seemed to pay attention to. It has become and everyday scene and the people around don't even bat an eyelid at the sight of it. The boy played here many times before, but now he was at a loss for words.

「Wait Shinichi, don't leave me!」

The cheerful voice from behind almost made his heart stop. It wasn't because of how sudden it was, but rather because he couldn't notice

“her” approach. He wanted to kill himself for not being aware of his surroundings.

「Ah yes! Sorry, Ms. Rinko-san」

The young lady he met recently was staring at him and smiling. He just noticed that he was close to bursting into tears. After noticing it, he suppressed it and bowed his head. Seeing his face, she thought he was dissatisfied so she pulled him by the hand.

「Come on, let's go those people are waiting!」

「Oh, no, I can go properly without being pulled!」

「No! Don't be shy!

Today we came here to buy things for you, Shinichi. Clothes first.

In fact, I dreamt of choosing clothes for a boy of your age!」

She was smiling and laughing while he could only show a bitter smile. I give up. She is a good, but slightly headstrong person.

————Therefore, I should not have come home

I made a wrong choice again————

2-03: Troublesome Father and Son

(02-02 was already published this is number 03)

Holding his son for the first time, the man was delighted.

Lifting this small, frail, light yet oppressive feeling of life, he trembles.

When a man protects the child himself, he will surely be determined to raise a good child.

From when it was a baby, together with the wife, they took care of everything from start to finish.

Changing diapers with inexperienced hands, cradling at night while crying.

Unable to forget the appearance that grows day by day and the first time they say words.

However, the man is the central pillar that supports the family.

He does not only raise children.

Instead, for the sake of the family, he shoulders the burden of more work.

For that reason time with the family decreases and it becomes lonely but, for the child to grow up honestly, the man is only able to do his best.

The pampered scraped one that clung to his mother

As a man I thought that was just fine. To be with and pampered by the mother is a good thing.

Then as the father it would be up to me to firmly teach many things.

Although busy with work, as a father I want to leave strong words with my son.

Even as a mama's boy, I want him to walk on the correct path.

「Do unto others as you would have done unto you.」

「Don't do violent things. No one likes to be hurt you know?」

「If there are people in trouble then help them.」

「Take care of your mother.」

Yes, I understand father.

Once my imouto was born, there was the fact that I became an older brother.

As the first born, I was trying to convey the respectable attitude of an older brother.

「Because you are the older brother, protect them both」

「Weak power is okay.

But the heart will not be defeated. I will surely see that/show you」

「No matter what, you will be those twos ally.」

「Help your mother take care of those two..」

— Yes, I'll do my best!

My child, within those few exchanges just nodded obediently, that is how it was.

That is why, the man was convinced that he had become a proper father.

It was ironic that the moment that he realized that was a

misunderstanding was the moment he lost his son.

My child was suddenly gone, and the days of happiness were no longer found.

After thinking about his son for several days, he suddenly realized it.

Certainly, I had taught my son a lot of things. That was my intention.

But I wonder, have I ever really listened to the words of my son?

It's a parent's self-indulgence to treat obedience as a good thing, only forcing an ideal image upon them.

The fact that I didn't know my son's own favorite food... The man was appalled.

One he had lost his son he realized that he was a parent that knew nothing about his child.

「Even though you don't know anything about that child!」

The words of his ex-wife only just now hit him, it was just as she said.

Without knowing anything about my child, my wife who lost hope of his survival could not forgive me.

He didn't realize how much of a big impact that made on her.

At that time I rejected everything emotionally, even though it was necessary to take care of calmly.

The sin of taking away a son from his mother is what created the change of heart and in the end caused the divorce Furthermore, as she gradually became unstable her attachment to her son grew.

In those days of ignorance, if he only felt the gradual loss of his children.

And finally once he had realized what was happening a hole that time

could not fill was created between him and his family.

Such a pathetic, and useless father.

A useless father that would only bring up the same topic over and over again to the son who just came home.

What should I have done? Exactly what kind of expression should I have shown?

I didn't know anything. I didn't even try to know anything and I'm even trying to have the face of a father now.

Even with all of that, my current wife said.

「Then isn't it fine to just start learning now? Let's start listening from now on」

「I personally think being simple and casual is good」

「No, no If it is going to be like that, then I think that aggressively pursuing is better」

「.....」

Father and stepmother are operating the console while waging a discussion.

While watching this from the front Shinichi dropped his line of sight to the bag at his feet.

「Kyu, kyukyu」

From the bag, the creature whose face pops out cries out looking perplexed.

「Shinichi, don't move!」

「That's right, just stay still!」

「Ah, okay...」

We are at a certain tailor located on the street corner.

Being forced into the fitting room, he became a dress up doll in every meaning of the phrase.

However, his clothes were not really changed, it was the clothes inside the mirror of the small fitting room that changed.

Going from casual to outdoor styles of clothing along with the latest fashion going through a large variety.

「...Whether it's science or magic, the lines between the two are starting to blend」

「Kyu...Kyukyu」

Agreed, nodding without able to hold back laughter was just like her.

Seeing her master being played around with by others was a rare occurrence.

The fact that the other person was his father made it even weirder since she could not picture her master with a family.

「You...laughing and smiling all you want, I'll remember this」

He says this while looking annoyed, however looking like a dress up doll gives his expression no impact.

It has been a week of holidays since being picked up by the new Nakamura house. The family had come with full force in order to pick out Shinichi's new set of clothes.

After receiving them the – official – boy who does not go outside will be dragged outside.

The Nakamura couple had an idea. Or rather they were all fired up picking out his clothes.

The first store chosen was the first other world shop open to the general public.

Although there are some sample goods shown on lined up manikins through the shop window.

There were no commodities inside the store, just a few fitting rooms.

In this store, by operating the console, you get to choose all the clothes and accessories.

The image of the clothes will be projected onto the person who had chosen the clothes in the fitting room.

Figure, difference by height, this system has perfectly calculated and project onto the person.

Naturally, from the start, you are unable to see yourself wearing the clothes so there is no time taken to change clothes.

Even if there are no goods exhibition spaces in the shop, you do not need to consider wastage because of trying those clothes.

The goods that you bought will be sent from a warehouse in the outskirts and with this, you are free to choose whether you wish to wait in the shop to receive your goods or receive it at home.

This is one form of application of the technology in the fantasy world

for the new shop.

But fashionable or not, according to Rinko is unknown

「Shinichi, which is better?

From father's viewpoint, I think this is good but....」

The variations Father had chosen are jean shirts and border cut mix.

"I think its okay to attack you like this."

The ones Rinko chose were a Black jacket and a black V-cut.

"If you have any desires please speak up.

I will accompany you as long as you like, for I am paid the entire day!"

"You don't need to worry about money. I will be paying."

"Kyaahaa!"

For some reason, the couple puffed out their chests.

Both parents embraced Shinji and it felt kind of pleasant But, with the wife's words, one can see her husband's expression becoming crestfallen.

"E...Eeehh...."

However, he is a guy who originally had no interest in fashion.

As a matter of fact, due to time slipping into the similar world 8 years ago, I am stumped when being asked for my opinion.

In order not to have any special wishes, in regards to the clothes chose for me, I have no comments.

"That one is a little exposed."

However, not saying anything is also spoiling the mood, therefore bearing in mind that I do not wish to stand out, I spoke out.

If I were to say frankly, that V-cut is too deep. Therefore, it's a little embarrassing.

"Mu, i see. Well, Even if it is seen, there is no problems looking at your body, so I thought it was okay."

I tensed up during her close inspection. Well, I felt that even if I was found out, it wouldn't be a problem, if the person herself felt indifferent about it.

Shinichi who had feelings of guilt quickly withdrew with a strange look on his face

「That, If possible, I'm not really aiming to attack anything Just normal is good. Ah, no, that..... I want to know what the current "normal" is.」

「.....」

「.....」

「Oh, no, that's not what I mean!」

In an instant, I made the husband and wife's faces harden and their way of speaking became hurried.

You don't have to "think about it anything". Just continue on with your "ignorant" ordinary lives.

「Y-you're right, we need to start from here.」

「A, ah..... yes, let's start-over from here.」

Those two are now showing obvious awkward smile.

As if I didn't feel guilty enough, my conscience took control.

And once again the boy is discourage.

「Kyu.....kyuu.....」

This was indeed a dumfounded situation, she couldn't help but be worried.

The Nakamura family finished buying the clothes, and made their way home.

Shinichi is currently wearing the clothes which his father had for the, 8 years later, him.

The clothes he is wear is baggy and oversized. They were purchased for the adult him and not the him who had only aged 2 years.

Rinko had selected it, it is based on the present day fashion.

Although, after the exchanged the clothes fashion hasn't changed much.

The familiar clothes helps ease his feeling of uneasiness about this new world.

「.....」

If this were anywhere else he would still have suspicion.

Nevertheless, I walk exactly one step behind Rinko and everyone. I observe our surrounding, and anticipate potential ambushes.

「Shinichi, is there something wrong?」

「e, ah, eh..... there doesn't seem to be any problems, I think.」

I try to give a response that would assure her.

As best as I could, I gave a reply that didn't seem suspicious.

The downtown area they visited is slightly far away from the place Shinichi used to live at.

Although, this place is still the location they used to shop at.

It seems that is the case.

「She is quite fashionable. In the beginning of the parallel world boom, the number of traditional shop decreased.」

At first the shop here weren't how they are now.

The commodities we received for the cultural exchange had to be altered to suit us before it could be useful.

The town he know from 2 years ago can no longer be found.

「..... I see. Is it really all that different from 8 years ago?」

And thus the things and places he knew of 8 years has all but leave him behind.

The amount of time that has passed for Shinichi is definitely that of 8

years.

And during that time lag the exchange with the other world has had a great influence on the world he had returned to.

The materials are different. As he looks at the walls of the building he can't help but feel unease.

「Are you feeling left behind Shinichi?」

「Eh, ah, such things I.....」

「There is no need to hold back. Father also felt the same way, surely you are lonely, I am certain.」

As Nobuhiko sees the face of his son who is gazing at the town, he can't help but meddle.

Without being too inconsiderate he tries to change the mood.

Shinichi felt that he had to return his father's thoughtfulness.

「Am I sad? perhaps. Either way..... I am, still the one who is left behind.」

It was difficult to properly express my feeling maturely.

Who can say it? For someone who only think us themselves.

Especially to a father who was happy with his return.

"Now that I have returned, I'm unsure of how I feel."

And.

I feel as if I have gotten lost in another world at another time, in a different place.

If this is true than I can't help but feel sad and lost.

He tries to change his expression as to deceive himself.

「It is so.....」

「It will be alright, you just need to keep moving. Right, Nobuhiko, Shinichi.」

「Ah, ahah.」

「Yeah, your right.」

The similar figure of the two, father and son, can be seen with their head slightly downcasted.

A sense of duty had awaken inside her. I must support them, Rinko thought to herself.

「Well, it is decided. Let's first see where is path will take us!」

My first step will be getting familiar with this town.

As I proudly proclaim I forcibly take the hand of my step-son.

「Wait, a moment, Rinko-san!?」

「First do you want to know about the train station? Or would you like to know a good place for teenagers to hangout and eat?」

「Uh, well you see.」

「Leave it to me, I knew this place since before I got married!」

Afterward, Shinichi tries to convince her to stop, but she doesn't respond to his cries.

Nobuhiko give a wry smile, although, Shinichi is being forcibly dragged around.

「Haha, your mother is amazing right.」

「Umm?」

The baby in my arms, makes a dumbfounded face, as if it isn't aware of what is happening.

It is a pleasant scene, seeing a father following his wife, who is leading the son along.

「.....somehow this feels nostalgic.」

This bossy Rinko is attractive, the man thought to himself.

I exchange glances with the person in my bag.

「Kyu?」

With a low voice he shake his head. "Leave him alone" said.

While acting as he was looking around he was looking at street, looking for anything different.

To say he didn't feel anything would be a lie but what he though was different.

He managed to grasp the location of the people that were following (.....) them.

.... Altogether there was around 15 people.

He understood his unique position.

The child who went missing 8 years ago came back after 2 years. That by itself is mystery.

Even with the global search plan couldn't find him, but he returned last month.

Of course it is natural for one or two supervisors to be tasked with monitoring him.

At some point he became aware of those who monitor him but left them alone. as long as they don't do anything excessive.

Rather it was problem for the people that plans to raise hand at him with his unique position.

It was unpleasant, but Rinko who wasn't his blood relative was trying to protect (.....) him He didn't want to hurt her feelings by ruining her hard work.

Yes, he knew that Rinko was the one who ordered surveillance on him.

She would want to use it to protect herself.

Because in that place no one noticed the white mask that was there.

Afterwards.

Until the sun had set they wandered around the town.

On occasions before reaching the Station we took several opportunities to window shop at various stores along the way.

There was the steak restaurant Rinko had rated highly. A store clerk was shouting out recommendations, a good an all-you-can-eat restaurant for a family dinner.

After they had finished their shopping, they returned home in the afternoon.

「Ah, Shinichi-kun did you open the door with your key?」

I held a bag in one hand and Shinji in the other.

The hand that held the bag was the same hand Rinko had entrusted the key to.

Nobuhiko was in the middle of putting the car into the garage, when I was in the process of opening the door.

I rejected his counsel, because I was holding luggage.

The key that he received, is a cylinder lock type, it can display an image of this street.

The tip is still the same, but the knob on the end has a finger recognition device.

Without a registered fingerprint the door won't unlock.

Currently, in Japan this "type of key used at my home" is popular it seems.

「That, errr, was I not supposed to open it?」

There wasn't the typical feeling of a lock being opened, the key activated because of my fingerprint being registered.

「Ah, sorry.」

To prevent crimes, the security system found it necessary to alert the homeowner.

The front door also needs voice recognition, please say something.]

「Eh, is..... anything fine?」

「What does one say, when they return home?」

I am told by the person with twinkling eyes and a pleasant grin on their face.

The wry simile seems to imply "that was well done".

「.....I'm, home.」

Although I was a little embarrassed, the key shines and the door opens.

As is if it was proclaiming, this is Shinichi's house.

「Yes, welcome home!」

Rinko pushes him from behind.

Words could not begin to describe the gratitude I felt, when I had pass through the door.

「！？」

「I'll go put the luggage away and go to the washroom and gargle..... what's wrong?」

「I'm ho-..... is there something wrong Shinichi?」

Nobuhiko who had just entered was also curious.

The married couple across from him, looked at Shinichi's mysterious expression.

「.....it's nothing!

Wait a moment, various things have happen it has been a while since I felt this tired.」

They gloss over his unusual manner and lightly laughed.

The couple merely glanced at another and they both slightly nod.

「In that case please take a bath fist.

Dinner should be finish soon, tonight it is cream stew~.」

「Oh, that's good. This fellow's stew is delicious.

Well then, it has been a long time since then. Should us fellow men wash one another's backs?」

「Eh, no I will wash it on my own!？」

「Come on, come on!」

While saying so the father forcibly pushes his son into the bathroom.

The person who was inside my bag peeked out to see what all the commotion was about.

「Amaryllis-chan. Sorry, but can you check on Shinji?」

「Kyu.....kyui!」

For a moment it seemed hesitant, it remembers the incident where it

was swung around by its tail.

This time she approves, but only until the father and the son return.

She had determined that it was safe because that thing was asleep.

This bathroom and bathtub is considered to be the standard size for an ordinary family. The bathtub has enough space to fit both the 15 year old boy and his adult father.

With the incorporation of technology from the other world it has become possible to heat hot water instantly.

「Ah, aaaah..... the hot water feels as if it came from a hot spring」

The two in the bathtub are sitting in a fetal position.

The hot water gently overflowing from the top of the tub, it gave off a very Japanese bathroom like atmosphere.

The boy had clumsy operated the ballast and didn't realize that there was too much water until he noticed.

「Uh, yes..... it was, troublesome.」

It was my mistake.

I was too preoccupied with being naked and thinking about proper bathing etiquette.

「.....」

「.....」

There was silence.

The son is incapable of properly conveying anything, likewise, the father doesn't know where to begin.

Nobuhiko was enthusiastic about taking a bath together, but beside that he had no real plan.

I'm already here, what matter is the "present", so that my resolve doesn't become a waste.

There are many thing I want to hear, and there also many things I want to tell him.

First of all Nobuhiko must dispel his doubts.

「Do you want to hear..... anything about me and Rinko?」

「What do you mean?」

Father and son who were aligned in the bathtub turn to face one another.

Although hazy from his memories, the face of the son who had slightly aged is still similar to the face the father remember.

Although similar his father's face had a much rougher appearance than what he remembered.

「I understand, father also thinks it is awkward to talk about.

If I were in your situation, I also wouldn't know what to say.」

After joining the Nakamura family, Shinichi didn't ask anyone about anything.

The reason why his father divorced, his mother bizarre attitude, and why his father remarried.

If I had encounter this scene, I would have assumed Nobuhiko initiated the conversation.

In the worst case scenario, mother was abandoned and father ran away with another woman.

Father found it necessary to blame himself for everything that had happened.

However, Shinichi had accepted both Rinko and Shinji without needing to know the circumstances.

It is good to be relieved, but I must know his reason why. I shouldn't repeat my past mistakes of relying on my son's obedience and kindness.

「Is there is anything thing you want say, there is no need to be reserved.

Father is the only one here. I just want to listen, so——」

Regardless of emotions there are, I want to hear about it, and accept it, were fathers words..

「——father, it's alright. I already somewhat understand.

Even so, sorry. It would be very awkward to hear about.」

Before I could say anything else, Shinichi apologized for not noticing..

I lightly laugh to play off my mixed feeling about the sudden dismissal.

「What is it you understand.....」

「Since you have been so up front about things, I can roughly understand.

From mother's perspective, I was a wimpy little kid. There was no way

that "me" could survive in the harsh environment of the other world.

Father was it because you couldn't agree with her opinion, was that, the causes of your quarrels?」

I felt a stinging in my chest when my son jokingly recited his deductions.

The feeling was similar to how I felt 8 years ago in the presences of my children.

My son was spirited away to another world, those days were hectic. And the days kept passing by with no traces to be found.

The quarrels with my wife continued, for more or less than half a year, and thus it caused a fatal rift. The relationship between the couple had worsen to the point that even if the son was there it could not be repaired.

「..... I'm not prepared to hear it.

Give me a moment..... to settle down.」

「Uh, sorry. I was rushing things.

It is just that I honestly..... want to know, your true feelings.

It isn't your fault, I as father, still have much to learn.」

Why was I so impatient? I sigh, at the thought of my impatience.

We had been separated for 8 years, and only came to know each other for less than ten days. It is still too soon to accept the bitterness and resentment of those who were left behind.

Shinichi similes, and he lets his head relax into the water.

「You worry too much.

Father it's not as if you have to get me to understand the complexity of the situation, correct?」

「..... father you were only half at fault, right?

You couldn't find me. And you were unable to protect your home.

You weren't able to convince mother..... there was nothing you could do.....」

As he mentions everything, my guilty conscience awakens, and my expression darkens.

This could hardly be called a proper talk, for that is a fact. More so, things such as not knowing the condition of my child who was spirited away. In addition, not so long ago the publicly announced of another world.

Furthermore people continued to find their missing people but my child alone could not be found.

Is it strange for me to become emotional, shouldn't it be normal for a parent.

After the cultural exchange with the civilization from another world, our everyday life had changed. As a result, all we could do to cope was to stay calm and mutually try to communicate with one another.

「Did I..... do it properly?」

「Eh?」

Of what was said, Nobuhiko did not hear about the things he wanted to know.

Understanding that, Shinichi was calm about fathers "marriage".

「Rinko-san saw my face and immediately recognized it was Shinichi (me) Could it be that father showed various things and spoke about me often?」

Photographs, pictures, thoughts, and feelings for his son.

How could I possibly hate a person, who accepts everything.

If it is my beloved husband's important son then they are family to me as well As a person and a woman, she who has chosen Nobuhiko whom she loves, would say the same..

「Um, therefore.

I have learned various things, and for that..... I am grateful.」

It is proof in itself that I have continued to think about him for these past 8 years.

What had been 2 years for Shinichi, had been four times longer for the family.

He gives his thanks and regards, the boy had properly conveyed his feeling to his father.

「Shinichi.....」

He replies with "I'm happy", and nothing more is said.

With this, I don't know what he is satisfied with.

The words Nobuhiko hears from his son makes his eyes teary.

「Although it isn't what I wanted to hear..... tell me one thing at least.」

「Shinichi?」

I try to ask in a soft and gently tone of voice.

However, a cold sweat drips down my face, I slyly laugh although my lips barely move.

I slightly pause and then grin, before asking my (teasing) question.

「How were you able to seduce, such a good, young and beautiful woman?」

「Ta, taboo!? Don't say such an reputation ruining thing!!」

Nobuhiko becomes flustered by the unexpected comment from his son. This is the first time he has seen the son's with such a mischief simile.

As for the remarriage, although it was possible it was forced it being a [scam] was out of the question..

Although I reflexively shout, there was no change in Shinichi's expression.

As if I never heard my father's outcry, I continued to grin like a little rascal.

「Now confess, depending on your explanation (method) I may lighten your punishment.」

「You are going to discipline me!?」

What is with this farce of a trial? I complained to my son and as expected my son had a comeback ready.

「Damn right you shitty father! How many years younger is your

partner!? When I heard from Rinko-san that she was 28 it was extremely shocking! You're 43 right now!!」

「Th-that's.....」

This person is also troubled by the difference in age.

There is a 15 years gap. Even if you rounded up it is still more than his son (Shinichi's) current age.

Although, it may not be rare for a marriage in this generation to have an age gap of 10 years or more. If you think about it from Shinichi's perspective, who recorded age is 21, it wouldn't be unusual at all. This man married a woman, whose age is more than 7 years older than this son's recorded age.

After my son had gone missing, when I meet her she was still only 20 then.

This is guiltiness (guilt) I guess.

「Umm, father you think I have the right to hear about that criminal ability (beginning romance)?」

「I think you've used some very inappropriate words!?」

I firmly place my hands on my father's shoulders, and press him to confess with a simile.

Nobuhiko smiles wryly and says "your manner of laughter is similar to your mother, although your appearance takes after me".

When I tease someone or corner them, I display a very good simile.

「Ah, um, don't misunderstand Rinko-san is not unhappy or anything. Rather I think I did well in caring for her..... but you know.....」

My father has a good impression of Rinko, there is no way I could reject her.

He thought that getting remarried was a good choice, it was better than being a lonely bachelor.

But even still, there were many points I couldn't agree to.

「But to be frank. Father, I still can't believe that you caught such a caring, dependable and good natured partner.」

「Y-you! This is what you really think!?

It may not seem like it, but in my former days I was quite popular!!」

「Eh.....」

A mist the ruckus I spoke my true feelings unconsciously, they were returned with my son disbelief.

His eyes are reflecting doubt, and are colored with pity, in addition his face showed a hint of suspicion.

While being confronted by Shinichi, Nobuhiko imagines a pitiful himself being scolded by his ex-wife.

Although it may have seemed malicious, it was not, he kept his dignity. But rather than a scenario where a wife scolds her husband, it was more so like a chat between teenagers.

However, she doesn't give the impression of being popular among the opposite sex..

「Well then how many boyfriends has Rinko-san had?」

I wonder what sort of number to expect? From the face that appears to

want to say something.

Although for a moment he hesitates to say it, his father obediently confesses after all.

「She..... has been with 4 other people.」

「.....that's questionable.」

It is difficult to say she is unpopular, because in truth she has created one family and one with half a home.

However, I do not believe that the number is correct, to revise to the word desirable. I say at least twice that number.

Judging by the face Nobuhiko made, I will say he never doubted the number.

「Then, who was..... your first love?」

「..... so it finally came to this.」

How many people have you dated?

Tell me about the time and place, "misunderstood but", I forcibly corrected the trajectory.

The talk about my first love is not amusing. It is unrelated and is finished.

However the content of the story is probably awkward for Shinichi.

When I was 13 years old I was interested in love and the opposite sex, but for him, he may have never gotten the chance.

He never mentioned a girl he was interested in.

It could be said that he is shy and that still hasn't changed but that probably didn't matter.

Furthermore, at the time, he was a crybaby and a coward, it wouldn't have been strange for him to be left out. And from the perspective of a young girl, I wouldn't know if he is attractive.

Even if I ask him about it, I doubt there is anything he has to say.

「First love..... first love, huh.....」

「.....eh, don't tell me you.....」

Surely you're not inexperienced.

Thinking he had stepped on another landmine father trembled in fear thinking back on what happed over the last 2 years.

What sort of experiences had he gone through after going to Farandia? I thought about the events I have gone through, and smiled.

「Now that think back to all that has happen it gives me a warm feeling inside? I had a difficult time communicating with people from the other world. We hardly understood one another, our languages were too different. I spend most of my time playing by myself.

Although the world was very Sparta like, when whatever happened, I always laughed happily.」

I remember in the other world there was a woman who picked me up off the road side, she saved me from dying a dog's death.

This amazon like woman, taught me the Sparta way.

The face of the rowdy and beautiful, blond haired Sister, briefly flashes by and disappears.

It is dangerous to continue thinking about, as I am now.

「Although, the feeling was different, her forcefulness is similar to Rinko-san in some ways.」

I smile knowing that father and son share a common preference in women.

But the answer the father gives makes the son briefly show a bitter face.

「..... You can't have her..」

The mood becomes serious, and Shinichi falls into a painful silence. The father's face is shot with a water-pistol that he made by cuffing his hands together, from atop the surface of the water.

「Ahhh!？」

「Who's getting stolen?!

Who do you think I am!？」

「Hey, there is no need to get angry, it was only a joke!」

「Don't lie, you were serious weren't you!? And you sure didn't seem to be joking!？」

I who had intentionally let my true feelings slip, was unable to convince my father otherwise.

I restrain myself from worrying about it.

「.....N-no one wants to have their wife stolen from them, is what anyone would think you know?」

「Don't think of your son as your rival!!」

「After all, you're more attached to Rinko than you are with me.」

Father was secretly envious that I was proactively helping with the house chores.

Although, I was only doing them because I didn't want to feel like a useless freeloader.

「Because you don't know anything about the past me it's easy it's easy to connect, If you don't do something then it won't calm down, if you're a parent then sympathize!..」

「Uu, I didn't know anything about you, I never took notice of you. I'm such a useless father...」

「Ahhh dammit, this type of father is a pain!!」

Shinichi who feels as if he was the parent, is amazed at such an attitude.

I mean because this was a non-stop conversation with father that other things started popping up in my head.

Although it was the long anticipated frivolous conversation of a parent and child.

I couldn't help but fill my thoughts with useless questions.

Is the "me" that returned really the son who father was waiting for?

The more I speak with father, the more we understand about each other.

The Shinichi who returned is already different from the Shinichi Nakamura of the past.

I just couldn't get this feeling of anxiety out of my head.

At midnight when even plants slept. There were already no lights coming from inside the Nakamura house and everyone was asleep.

Rinko and Nobuhiko were dreaming and there was no sign of crying from Shinji. Nakamura House located in a quiet residential area surrounded by silence, all the residents are sleeping.

Except unnoticed on a roof, a shadow lay hidden.

『I thought this would happen someday, but you're being a little hasty』

I fiddle with the gadget in my hand. Someone had been watching us.

There is a mystery person behind all of this. If I had to say, I don't think they have anything to do with the incident 8 years ago.

Based on my experience I ask myself: what is their "purpose", who is the "mastermind"? Regardless, I need to teach them a lesson.

After all, he's a pro with his hand.

He was a pro although he didn't want to become one.

All the evidences points to the person being an intruder. I need to devise a plan so that this person never tries this again.

I who learned the ways of a saboteur will show them how it is done.

When we'd returned home, I realized that something felt off inside the house.

『.....although, I don't think of this as my home yet.....』

I think back to all that had happened this past week.

He, who had been taken in by the Nakamura family while puzzled, had started living here.

In order to restore their lost time, he and his father have been trying to reach out to one another.

The stepmother would always smile, and developed a strong loving feeling.

Does the elder brother understand, why the younger half-brother is so attached to him?

Even if neither the impact nor turmoil continue after returning had yet to wear off.

They strongly understand as they warmly embrace themselves.

Those feelings are sullied, even if you were to say it was interference in their peaceful lives.

『Just a little, I will let this masked assassin (Masquerade), have a taste of fear.』

Murmuring to no one, I crush several devices – wiretaps and miniature cameras – wholeheartedly.

They were in the boy's room, the living room, the toilet, even in the couple's bedroom.

There is no longer any reason to forgive them. It will obviously escalate if I leave it be.

Then I will have to thoroughly teach the person who planted these.

Was there someone I made an enemy of?

I smile slightly as I wait for the spotlight to reveal the wirepuller and the white mask slipped into the darkness and vanished——

02-04 The Things, I've Always Been Doing

—Agatsuma Eiji

This man had always, throughout his life, used other people. That is the sort of person his is.

His mother has ties to bigwig politicians, and she is a C.E.O. of a large enterprise.

He, who was born from such parents, has a given right to employ others. It is his privilege, and it is only natural that he does so.

Besides, he also has unparalleled talent.

When he studies, he only needs to read it once to understand it. In physical activities, such as sports, he is able to effortlessly perform above the average person.

His family lineage is excellent.

He took full advantage of his genius.

Unlike his parents, he chose the shorter route and joined the police department.

With his talents he charges through this profession with no trouble.

The first stain in his smooth-sailing career was, the parallel world announcement, three years later.

In those days, the Japanese Government introduced 『The Parallel Worlds Criminal Countermeasure Act』.

The members that were involved, in its development, had been steadily working on the Act in the utmost secrecy.

The J.S.D.F. and the police played the leading role in the detailed investigation that was conducted. (TLC: Japanese-Self-Defense-Force)

He had already known beforehand, about its existence, from his father's personal connections with leading authorities.

The announcement, of the fantasy like parallel world, was followed by public discord.

A new system had begun, the era of the chosen ones.

If that is the case, he had absolute confidence in himself.

And, he certainly had been chosen.

He is appointed as a temporary Commissioner in the M.P.D.
(Metropolitan Police Department).

A sort of freelancer, one could say.

From the perspective of the M.P.D. he is what one would call an Observer.

Although as a Countermeasure Officer "he doesn't" have the direct authority to resolve crimes, but his duty is very important and his findings have great influence.

His work ethic is excellent, but it didn't bring him any glory or promotions.

In a government level administration, where failure isn't an option, being talented isn't enough.

For one to be selected into the Countermeasure upper echelon they must be acknowledged by everyone, as a person who has a flexible mindset.

At this point, Agatsuma Eiji disappeared as a potential candidate.

If that is true, why did management dispatch him? A possible reason is, they're afraid of his father's influences.

He who is difficult to manage was driving out of the M.P.D. and they decide to kept him around as a petty Countermeasure Officer.

Such is the matter of business in any organization, there can only be one person at the top.

It is only natural for people to work under others, but he couldn't accept that fact.

He had gained a bad reputation, among the Countermeasure upper echelon, but because of his family's connections he couldn't be demoted or excommunicated.

In name they nominated him for a promotion. He is appointed as a Countermeasure Officer and transferred him away.

Before he had noticed it was already too late.

His transfer petition isn't accepted and his achievements aren't acknowledge.

And thus, his world status suddenly began to stagger.

Unfortunately, his present talents are unable to help with his world status.

In his current circumstance, even if he wagers all of his achievements, it is clear that the situation is dire.

He is completely unable to make a move, everyday, his orders are to maintain investigation.

His track record is good enough to be ranked among the top commissioners. But apparently him being a member of the Observers

doesn't mean much. For these past eight years, he has been reluctantly dealing with the matter, and his frustration had been building up.

However, he found it suspicious, how quickly, the returner boy detected him.

"There is something off about this person."

It is unknown as to how the hiding-spots were exposed.

For such reason, in the early stages, a team had set-up monitoring systems and wiretapped the parent's house.

There was no legal permit obtained in his investigation. It was completely illegal. He had judged that his actions had merit. To start his investigation, he gave a false report to the Intelligence Division and he had obtained a counterfeit permit.

He is yet unaware of the wrath, he has incurred, from the boy's partner.

A black car is driving through an upper-class neighborhood.

To speak of, even if merging with a parallel world causes a rise in technological innovation, it wouldn't suddenly change the core livelihood of people in general.

The car, with a sturdy four wheel frame, safely drove down the street in the night.

Agatsuma Eiji is the driver of the car. He dislikes being used, and equally dislikes other people driving for him.

From the viewpoint of the typical privileged person, there is no issue

with being chauffeured. However, he is particularly fussy about who is operating the vehicle.

He has no complaints about the times he spends driving through the town. Rather he finds those moments pleasant.

As usual, however.

「Fu, an ordinary family dinner, huh.

Well, I shouldn't expect to discover anything conclusive on the first day.....」

A few hours had passed since he heard the conversation from the earpiece in his right ear. It left him with a lingering sarcastic impression.

One by one, he extracts the conversations from the wiretaps that were planted. The information is only sent to Agatsuma's terminal.

The conversations recorded are of the family's daily preparations.

Everything was trivial. The nauseatingly happy family makes Agatsuma frown.

Regarding the subject of the boy's behavior, it is labeled as — half modest and half embarrassing —

However, he is unable to understand the logic of the boy's step-mother, the younger brother's biological mother.

One would think she would be a little more emotionally distant, but she seems very calm.

Perhaps, does the boy prefer his step-mother and half brother?

Half of the reason why he, in merely 10 days, begun the illegal investigation was because of Rinko's report. Her reason for protecting the

son was just too unusual to comprehend. It surpassed all logic of being simply moral obligation.

His other reason was, the boy's attitude was far too quiet and obedient.

The boy's return, is equivalent to a time-slip and the family he had returned to had radically changed.

This level of understanding is far exceeding that of a 15 year old boy. It gave him an eerie feeling.

—I will definitely expose that bastard's true character.

And then I will obtain an appropriate position.

As far as he is concerned, it is only (reasonable), because this is nothing more than a stepping stone for him.

Agatsuma thought to himself, he deserved a proper position. While grasping the steering wheel, he gloated to himself.

Just then, as the car is moving, something collided with the roof of the car.

He immediately pressed down on the car's brakes, to stop the car, and to confirm the cause. But there is nothing there.

It is suspicious, he certainly heard the noise caused by the impact. And above all, although it was only an instant, he saw "someone's face", perhaps?

However, illuminated by the headlight and seen through the opposite side of the windshield, what he saw wasn't clear.

Observing from the driver's seat, on the frame of the car, no body imprint can be seen.

「..... did I imagine it?」

To verify, he exited the car and surveyed the surrounding area. But there was no one.

He shakes his head, and tries to forget the creepy hallucination.

After he had finished double checking, he got back into the driver's seat and then he checked the rearview mirror.

「Ah, who is it!?」

Agatsuma immediately turned around to examine the backseats of the car.

He didn't give anyone a ride. And certainly, there is no one there.

However, he thought, he saw a "white mask" reflected in the rearview mirror.

For someone in his position, he had to consider if a criminal is plotting revenge on him. He checks the area's around the backseat, but no suspicious spots could be found.

He thought to himself, is there something wrong with my eyes.

『Za, za, zazazah, Today D.J. Hammer Jun's secret mid-night message is going to begin!! 』

Upon hearing sounds coming from the radio, he screamed.

And then, halfway through, the car's horn switched off and on.

「Huh!?」

..... sh-shit, is this thing defective?

I'll complain to that shop later!」

Somehow or another, the broken down car caused him to become tense and break out into a cold sweat.

He thought to himself, I never want work in the technology innovation field.

And thus, he left the car behind and ran towards his house.

However, this entire time, the white mask is watching from the sidelines.

「What was that all about!」

He relaxes on the sofa. After all that has happened, seeing things and the car breaking down, he ponders about "what do next".

There is no family to greet him, as a bachelor his home is quite as usual.

It is said that to be successful one must choose their career over building a family. During his prime, instead starting a family, he chose to focus on his career. The silence of his home puts him at ease.

However, today, being alone, the vast open space and silence created an abnormal mood.

And thus, the distant noises that can be heard sounded eerie.

——drip, drop——

「Huh!」

Agatsuma becomes startled by the sounds, of water dripping from the faucet, in the kitchen.

He thought, he had forgot to tighten it. But, before his eyes the faucet activates.

A large quantity of water rushes out, and he became soaked.

「Che, why. It's the water service this time!

What in the world is going on!?」

He becomes confused; the faucet should've be closed. In his house, where no one else is around but him, he begins to curse.

It is not possible for the water service to suddenly release that large sum of water. He disregarded that fact.

Now that he is soaking wet, he goes to the dressing room and took off his clothes.

Without separating them he put his suit, dress shirt, and necktie into the washing machine.

The machine is programmed, for each piece of clothing, to be given an optimized washing.

Technology obtained from Galesto, compared to the traditional consumer electronic appliances, in terms of performance the new appliance is a level ahead.

However, only for the wealthy.

「..... should I take a shower?」

After removing the wet clothes, his body felt unpleasant.

He enters the bathroom, after confirming the washing machine was working properly.

His body had worked up a sweat, and the fatigue had gotten to him. He wanted to lay down.

Even if technology advances, "old car troubles" are difficult to get rid of.

The bottom of the tub, that heats the hot water similar to a hot springs, is a real improvement. Although, the shower head hasn't changed all that much.

.....

In silence, as the water flows down, Agatsuma contemplates. And, he closes his eyes.

He tells himself it just his mind playing tricks on him, "it was only my imagination".

After learning of Galesto, a world with advance science and technology, society concluded that ghosts don't exist. To someone like him, a sceptical human, the occults are nonsense.

「What, am I so afraid of? In the age of science, this is nonsense..... eh?」

He strengthens his resolve and opens his eyes. Everything is dyed (red), a childish voice is let out.

When he became aware of the existence of Galesto, rather, did he ever questioned or theoreticalize any further?

If there is a world with advance science, perhaps, the opposite also

exist?

But that logic doesn't arrive, because he has lost his composure.

「Ua-whaaaa!!??」

Everything is covered in, red.

The water flowing out of the shower is, red.

His body is bathed in, red.

「Hiyaa, wh-what blood!? Gyaaa, uwaa!! gyanaa!?」

While in a shaken terror, he tries to exit the bathroom, but something grips his ankle.

As he falls, he reflexively looked at what tripped him. His face stiffens.

And there laid a, dried up mummified, human like creature.

A man's face is sticking out of the bathtub. Agatsuma seized his leg, and tries to crawl away. The eyes filled with resentment glares at him.

「Hiyaa!? A, aah, ieeh, iyaaaa!!!」

Frantically, screaming like a woman, with great effort he desperately tries to crawl away.

Several times, while being wet and naked, he slips on the flooring. Somehow he makes it to the living room. As he enters the room, he sees the portable terminal on the table.

With this, he thought, he could call for help. At this point, it had crossed

the line, it more than a simple supernatural phenomenon.

Currently he wanted to escape this horror, however.

「Uh?」

But it is only false hope, whatever is chasing him, has appeared.

Without any hidden wires, something suspends him in mid-air.

Furthermore, in this bizarre phenomenon, the electricity goes out. An ashtray is also levitated.

Inside the house, a rapping sound could be heard. Gradually, a resentful voice is steadily drawing closer. (TL: rapping sounds are associated with poltergeist)

「A, ahh.....whyy, w-whyyyyy!？」

Poltergeist. That is what he thought.

He could not comprehend the pattern of these series of paranormal activities.

Only that, a grown man in his own home, is shivering in horror.

『H, hyaaaaaha!』

Whether it belonged to: a young person or an old person, or either, a man or a woman, it is merely an intangible and hysterical laughter.

In that moment, the frightened noble Agatsuma, he is uncomfortable mesmerising.

And so, usually vivid, peculiar voice (voice changer) is heard.

『Perhaps, this is enough, I see.』

As the mysteries voice begins to speak, the paranormal phenomenon settles down.

The glass ashtray that had rose with Agatsuma, lands on his foot.

To protect his face, from the shattering glass, he covers his head with his arm. When he lowered his arm, he sees the figure of the white mask. He shouts in surprise.

「W-who are you!？」

He buffed as best as he could, although he is frightened stiff, he spoke in a loud voice.

Before his eyes stood, a distorted and translucent, human like figure.

This person, wearing the white mask, must be the one responsible for the paranormal phenomenon. He thought.

The ominous and strange being is the one who has shown Agatsuma these horrors.

If this apparition claims itself to be a ghost, somehow, it would be unusually persuasive.

The actions of this string-puller was unforeseeable.

『.....do you understand your predicament?』

The apparition, deceptively disclosing information without revealing anything.

It's position and movement are similar to the poltergeist he encountered early.

「I-is, this your work?」

「Where you the one, who caused all those weird phenomena!?」

「Did you finally realized it?」

「Based on your excellent reputation, I thought you would've noticed it early.」

The remark hurt Agatsuma's pride, and he stood up.

「Bastard, who are you!」

「You are trespassing on my property!」

「It is too late to apologize; I will have the police thoroughly investigate and send you to jail!」

「Oh, scary, scary.」

「How cute, trying to be threatening while being naked.」

「I can be very cute too, fufu.」

Agatsuma is a fool, is what the apparition thought. To make him regret this words, the apparition, it turned its gaze downward onto Agatsuma and make a scornful laugh. A truly unnatural laugher.

「tsk!!?? Shit, you bastard!!」

Despite the horror he felt, his anger overcame his feelings of fear.

Nevertheless, how pathetic, he's covering his lower body with a sofa cushion.

Th-that, is enough out of you, intruder!

When I press the button, on the wall, the Countermeasure Officers on standby will rush over, and will be here in 5 minute.

I don't know how you snuck in here, but it is too late to escape!』

As a bluff Agatsuma plans on calling the Countermeasure Officers on standby.

There exist several, emergency and crime prevention, security system.

And it seems that one of those, security system, switch is nearby.

However.

Fufuu, if you can, please go ahead and try.

If they do come, what will they see?』

The white mask wasn't afraid nor was it panicking. Without being surprised it calmly sat on the sofa.

Next, it took out a file from somewhere and tosses it to Agatsuma.

Upon see the contents of the document, he drops the cushion.

「What did you say..... where are you!?」

He tried to question, but his shaken voice barely held any authority.

Anyhow, the file is a list of Agatsuma's unjust acts.

A list of: Illegal searches and abuse of authority, and using threats to investigate. In addition, coercing subordinates.

There were many incriminating documents (•••) that he had hidden.

Furthermore, if one continues reading the document, they would find it laughable.

He didn't find it funny, because his neck is on the line.

「Ah, if this is leaked, it will be a scandal for my parents.....」

From tax evasion to bribes, there is proof of all sorts of immoral controversial acts.

It has already been 8 years since the parallel world's announcement. The data was created, after learning about Galesto, by outdated electronic equipment.

Unfortunately, there were some people who didn't trust the modern day technology.

And thus, they left their documents on electronic equipment and paper.

For that reason, after the parallel world announcement, it made the evidences all the more incriminating.

Again, if someone were to catch wind of this, he would be pursued.

This time, one could say, things had backfired on him.

『To put it bluntly, this isn' the first time I snuck in here.

That is only a copy; the original is in a safe place.』

He is at a lost for words.

How is it, he was unaware of the plot and the invasion? And then sudden he had awoken to the bizarre phenomenon the opposing party

had divised.

He doesn't know, the other party's capability, therefore he determined it wasn't a lie.

『By the way, about the information I have collected on your parents. I don't have any ill will towards them, for now.

I had merely did so to suppress your parents influence, just in case they become a problem.』

This way I, Agatsuma, can't disobey you..... what do you want?』

As to all that had happened, it was a roundabout way of doing things. With the information that had been collected, they could have just straightforwardly confronted him.

『It would have been faster to simple tell you. But I needed to introduce myself first. I am the existence that let "Shinichi Nakamura return here".』

『It was you! Just, how much do you know!?』

『That doesn't matter. I have "two" big request, understand. First, for the boy who has returned, you do not have permission to intrude in his life. You will stop interfering, understood.』

The wreckage of a mini camera and listening device are thrown onto the table.

『For someone like me, who is outside the law, I can reach places normal

people can't.

I stumbled upon these, out of kindness, I have save you the time and brought them back to you.

If it is only at the level of monitoring then there is no reason for me to retaliate.】

As it was pointed out, things may have gotten out of hand.

Although, coincidentally it is also became potential blackmail material.

He had bugged the house of a member of the Countermeasure Task Force.

If the Intelligence Division were to investigate, the Countermeasure Officers, it would be the end.

And thus, he had arrived at the inevitable, a command that conflicts with his integrity.

『This scandal will affect all of the Agatsuma family; it is already hopeless.

The mass media and the press, will be overjoyed, their assault will make your family disappear.】

In the worst case scenario, his family will be social ruined and they will all face imprisonment.

And for him to avoid all of this, he need only not meddle with a young boy.

『..... your request isn't difficult, however, why are you so concern over that child's wellbeing?

What is the meaning, of you to exposing yourself and protect that

boy?」

In the first place, Agatsuma has no choice in the matter but to obey.

Pretraining to his threat, to contact the Countermeasure Officers Investigation Administration, he hasn't notified them. There is an unmistakable feeling that Agatsuma has something against the boy.

『Fufuu, you rotten policeman, do you not understand your position?

Your prudent suspicions are annoying, but I don't have any particularly motive.

Did I not mention two conditions? The first request is only a preface.

My true aim, is to destroy the organization that is targeting the boy.』

「Is your goal the System?」

『To verify, I will be troubled if the boy becomes conspicuous due to the action of a small fry. However. That is why I don't need a lowly Countermeasure Officer intruding in "my territory" and ruining my plans.』

The person who is monitoring "Shinichi Nakamura" is a nuisance to the white mask.

Based on his observation of the white mask, Agatsuma shrugs his shoulders — deemed that it was hopeless — and gave up.

『Your organization's information management is still sloppy and unreliable.

The information that the boy, who had disappeared 6 years ago, had

returned, along with his All – D Rank, had been leaked and is known to unrelated non-public officers. Whatever you want to called the people who work behind the scenes.』

「What!? How troublesome.....」

This unpleasant conversation, Agatsuma found it inexcusable.

The •Knowledge• and technology of the parallel world Galesto was leaked by the people behind the scenes in business world. And thus it caused the unavoidable change of everyone's life.

The Countermeasure Task Force's role is to maintain public order. Is the plan to not conform or compromise with them but rather, is it to destroy them?

It resembles the business world, where man is pited against man.

How long has this, behind the scene and hidden from view, information technology struggle been going on?

This is literally, about life and death, the bloody conflict that happens behind close doors.

「What you are trying to say is, the people currently targeting Shinichi Nakamura are a hindrance. And that you don't want to make things public. Therefore, you're law-abidingly stopping the Countermeasure Task Force, correct?」

『If you remain calm, someone as talented as you should be able to understand.

Would you like me to withdrawn those rude comment I made early?』

Despite still being talked down on, the compliment did not unset

Agatsuma.

It is disappointing that he didn't notice the sarcasm.

「Fu, it is only natural. However, is it true, are you really not that boy's comrade.」

『I can testify. The impossible time difference.

Everyone is worried about morals and ethics, but those are only hindrances. If people took the time to investigate there would be many scholars.

For that I know, the ambiguous kindness, I discarded it.』

「..... certainly.

After the parallel world announcement, there were many scholars who didn't want to miss their chance to work on the parallel world investigation team.

There are many people who have theorised that, the mysterious, Galesto is an drifting dimension.』

After the public announcement, Galesto's advance technology was made available to the public.

To put into perspective, the level of Earth's technology had already been achieved eon ago in their realm.

In addition, from the parallel world, the people of earth could not comprehend the 'deadweight' label that was placed on certain people.

And now, it wouldn't be strange for people to 'turn the other way' on illegal investigations concerning those deadweight.

『Beside, the person in question is an 'All – D', there is no need for me to concern myself with his home.』

A 'D' has no power to put up a resistance that is the reality shown.

And even if the boy were to suddenly disappear it will be received as him running away from home.

Other people will agree that it was a matter of "not finding a place to belong in the family".

There is a possibility of this being a low-risk ploy.

A scheming person had appeared.

『Furthermore, today is rather lucky, there are only 15 people trailing me, previously the other 6 have started to move separately. Have the chain of commands switched?』

『..... you had already determined the number of people I had watching from the shadows. May I say, you don't seem to be someone who makes a move over a cheap sense of justice, correct?』

The unpleasant feeling is gone; he is relieved by the fact that his neck isn't on the line.

That is how it was, all the things that had been piling up, in one night everything had been resolved.

Today, he decided to not become an enemy of the person with the infiltration technique, and he gave away data on the Intelligence Division.

『I will try to investigate this person myself.

This can be useful, and it seems you have already cornered them.』

We cannot precede lawfully this time. Instead, use the old fashion method, feed them information.』

「Is it alright to use false evidence?」

The new file that was taken out is examined.

Agatsuma had handed over an extensive detailed report, that he had previously planned to submit, of the organization's illegal activities.

『I see, that makes sense. However, don't forget the boy's file.

Although, I may be a criminal, I haven't fallen that low; I'm not a bad person.

It would be unfair to let a child receive unjust treatment. Also, I will feel guilt.』

「..... those sure aren't the words of someone who teased and threatened me, not too long ago.」

『Fufu, my horror show was well received.

But, was it not you, who underestimated my abilities?』

With a click of its tongue, it performs a demonstrate.

For the sake of not underestimating the negotiation and to avoid him backing out, everything was put in the palms of its hands. It is not a pleasant feeling at all.

『No need to make such a face. This will be a give-and-take relationship.

This mask-wonder will restore your damaged reputation.

I will show you how to get a promotion and a higher position in the Countermeasure Task Force.』

The Mask boasted about a reasonable transaction to Agatsuma.

Agatsuma has a bitter expression after hearing about the Mask's business deal.

「That's fine. However, allow me safeguard Shinichi Nakamura by keeping him under my minimal surveillance.」

『Oh my, aren't you the dedicated government official. Has your generously suddenly returned?

Well, I guess it can't be helped. You have my permission.』

Upon the end of the transaction, the Mask stood up — I dare say — this person was tall.

Agatsuma was playing the role of a policeman, but whether to say there was something more to his reason is questionable.

「..... was I that much of an obstacle that I needed to be dealt with?」

『Fu, fu, quite a scary thing you have said Commissioner.』

The Mask turned its head and gazed at him. It gave a hysterical laughter that would cause shivers down one's spine.

Agatsuma felt a sharp pain in his chest; he regretted asking that question.

『Did I not mention before, I'm not a such a bad person.
Besides, a criminal has a criminal's own sense of aesthetics.
Have you ever meet a criminal such as myself, before?
I don't want to see a child getting entangled with murder.』

It had become understood. After the masked person had finished its talk about little children, it vanished before his eyes.

For the first time Agatsuma felt the intensity of a gaze; his knees gave way and he fell to the floor.

He laid there, on the floor of the living room, panting heavily.

「I-it..... can't be, this just..... won't, go away by itself.....」

As if he had escaped from a horror show, Agatsuma arms and legs were shaking. He had forgotten about being naked, and curled up in a little ball.

The Mask quietly returns to Shinichi Nakamura's room.

After coming to her senses "she" ascends to Shinichi's shoulders and nestled against his cheek.

「How was it, what are the results?」

「It was rather delicious.

Um, that guy was quite stubborn, but for now he is willing listen to us. I wonder why? Somehow that stupid performance was successful.]

To not awaken the family, the two of them are quietly chatting in the Farandia language.

When the boy had gotten tired of talking, he ascends to his bed and they sit horizontal across from one another.

「Perhaps, this may be random chit-chat, but compared to the others, I'm still nervous around Rinko-san.]

「You will not be able to understand that person without getting close to them.

From now on, try putting more effort into getting along.]

「..... effort..... is important; I think so too.]

She had been troubled by Shinichi's lack of effort. Her desire for him to belong had turned into excessive pity.

In regards to the conversation, his companion had with Agatsuma, it was a mixture of truths and lies.

Straightforward threats alone may not have been enough to keep his family out of harm's way.

There was a highly possible that things could have backfired. And, instead of helping, Agatsuma, could have become more suspicious of them.

Pertaining to the desired goal everything relied on — Agatsuma's reasoning —

Although, that matter had already been determined based on, the fact of, the information leak.

From the beginning, Shinichi did not trust the entirety of the Countermeasure Task Force, except for Rinko.

It wasn't because the organization itself was suspicious, but rather they are unknown to him.

That is why, he had used his separate hand, the masquerade's ability, to listen and learn about them.

During those few days, he had been gathering materials for the blackmail.

Fortunately, with the assistance of his partner and with help from magic, he was able to make a body double.

This way, it was easier to fool our spying and trespassing Countermeasure Officer.

And thus this time they were lucky.

It was a godsend that Galesto-san's System is still inexperienced.

But, compared to the earlier stage, where they were stuck, the results are beyond expectation.

「At first I was surprised when I heard the contents of the conversation. I thought all was lost, both limbs and my will went numb.」

She was under the impression that her Lord had disliked hearing, this type of news, about Agatsuma.

Agatsuma's temperament is annoyingly childish; he was unable to hide his displeasure of not being the person at the top.

Not only did he try to conceal his mismanagement, by pressuring it

onto his low position colleagues, his investigation methods were coercive.

Agatsuma doesn't have the capabilities or the tolerance to be the commander of an investigation.

There is no mercy for villains; she is aware of that fact, but this time she was lenient.

「It certainly could had been a disaster, however.

The best part was when I was threatening him; I felt a pain in my stomach the whole time.」(TL: my guess the cause was laughter)

Strangely enough, Agatsuma's "cheap sense of justice" made him quite stubborn.

Ordinarily, it shouldn't take much to defeat a villain, but he was fairly patient.

Since the situation had deteriorated, she had to devise another plan.

This time the problem would not have been resolved with only Agatsuma Eiji's removal.

Shinichi information had become public. On top of his unexplained mysterious time-lag, for a person labeled as useless to suddenly return, it will draw attention. There is the possibility that other people will also try to monitor/investigate him.

Even if the person who replaces Agatsuma happens to be upright, there is the chance they would have doubts about the time-lag and choose to investigate it.

And, what if they start to question the false reports Rinko has been submitting.

There is also the possibility of Agatsuma's replacement being a cunning

bastard.

It's best not consider a person who doesn't do their job. Simply, it is unknown; there are just too many odds to bet on. Anyways, a person who is hungry for a social position is convenient.

By using magic and the Mask's abilities to display the horror show, having taken this extra step, Agatsuma will be too afraid to take revenge. He will have no choice but to go along with their plans.

Although, it may be on an old camera, his image in various frightened poses have been recorded.

If anything happens down the line, they have plenty of blackmail material in reserve. The blackmail material will be published to the world if anything were to happen to Shinichi's family.

「Well, to protect them (· · · · ·) should I not (· · · · ·) go to great lengths.

I came to understand it a little while ago, however, I may have already known when I had first returned to this world.]

「Milord.」

And thus Shinichi decided to protect his family: in a place where he held no status, neither a place to belong, nor anything at all.

For that reason, these numerous acts, he must once again become accustomed to it all.

More or less all the associated parties, he has come across, are people of high social influence; whom are more than capable of defending themselves.

But it's not as if Shinichi has no partner to assist him.

Possibly, "for such people" without a frightening companion things would fail.

However, this matter is different.

His father is an office employee in an average trading company.

The father's social position is that of an ordinary civilian; there is no way he could defend against villains.

Rinko knows self-defense and she is a member of the Countermeasure Task Force.

Based on their morals, there is no telling how far the organization will stoop. They could even take a family member hostage.

Shinji is an infant with no power to put up a resistance.

Whether it was fortune or misfortune,

Or was it, they simply didn't notice?

His mother, the woman whom is taking care of his little sister and younger brother, are they not being watched? Do they need to be rescued also?

「This ever so, increasingly different, parallel world is becoming more difficult to come to terms with.」

「That was a very pessimistic way of thinking.」

The reason the villains have not attacked his family yet is because they believe, the D – Rank , Shinichi is a weakling.

A family member being in the Countermeasure Task Force is dangerous enough, moreover, an All D – Rank is an easy excuse to pick a fight over.

In addition, there is the “unknown” factor, the government’s unlawful System. They could most likely disregard appearances and take Shinichi into custody.

At that moment Shinichi shook his head; he didn’t want to consider it.

「Somehow, I need to stay anonymous. With this information I have no choice but to shutdown the System.」

「..... then, how does tomorrow sound?」

「Well then, in the morning lure them out; when it's night crush them.」

However, only in the lawful aspect of annihilation.

「..... I don't mind but.....」

She was hesitant to speak up about the plans they made beforehand.

Her behavior changed in a roundabout way. She averted her line of sight.

「What is it, even in..... Farandia. The things we must do have not changed.....」

Her role is to draw the attention of the scoundrels, those who are a menace to others, as his decoy.

And, certainly as she was told, by Shinichi's selfishness, she did well in her role as his body double.

Although, this time the aim was different, is what she thought.

It couldn't be helped; Shinichi lowers his shoulders in dejection.

And thus one week passed, Agatsuma the Countermeasure Officer had made amazing results.

Shinichi's turn never came. Due to the white mask actions as the decoy (bait) and it's information collection (cross-examination), out of habit (・・・), thus it was finished.

In regards to the person in question, "now that I have returned, what am I doing" it has turned into that sort of mood.

「Aha, I just want to live normally.....」

02-05: The Alteration in History

—Has his irresponsibleness already ran out? (TLN: Agatsuma, perhaps)

Several days had passed after the Officer, Agatsuma Eiji, was coerced by the masked figure clothed in black.

It is an ordinary afternoon, Shinichi is browsing around in a small bookstore; the surrounding atmosphere indicates that he is being watched.

Moments earlier, Agatsuma had went to use the restroom at the convenience store 50 meters away; when he left the store, Agatsuma had thought he had lost track of Shinichi; he breaths out a sigh of relief. (TLN: upon finding Shinichi again)

Including himself, there are only a few other Countermeasure Task Force member arranged for this stakeout team.

A little bit of the Masquerade's magic power is used and it makes an appearance around the neighborhood.

The current situation is a setup to cause any potential pursuers to fluster, and to find their location.

Throughout the whole town, among all the people in the area, there is no big change. (TLN: Agatsuma's team is monitoring Shinichi)

The person in question, Shinichi, must not learn of their actions or the situation.

Agatsuma focus all his effort onto surveying the surrounding area; a complete display of his superior skills.

First, he calculates the odds of Shinichi's data leak. Next, he takes charge of safeguarding Shinichi and the data.

Agatsuma needs to expose the routes that are uncovered, and then dig up any evidence that can be found.

The quantity of people related to illegal activities in the organization are numerous. (TLN: the Countermeasure Task Force's HQ, perhaps)

A few days later, he is truthfully astonished by his incompetence.

Meanwhile, as he was leaving the neighborhood, he spoke arrogantly to himself.

To "her" the significance of being the bodyguard for the family isn't to be a decoy but rather for her to be alone. (TLN: Amaryllis Fox)

And thus her independent actions gives her the opportunity to capture their enemies.

Currently, he is unsure of which information to use as bait. Agatsuma willy and repeatedly leaks information with the purpose of lawfully thwart them. (TLN: those working behind the scene, not Shinichi's group)

The work had yet to begin despite 3-4 days had passed. Except for the other Countermeasure Task Force member, there was no one else to spy on.

They are aware of the boy with the peculiar existence; it seems those behind the scenes didn't take the bait. Is what Agatsuma thought.

Thinking positively, it is still too early to see any voluntary moments; Agatsuma continues to monitor Shinichi.

For the sake of protecting a secret, he is willing to use his secret power against those hiding behind the scenes.

Nonetheless, it was essential but in no way was it important; he just had a feeling. (TLN: Agatsuma)

Although, there was no real objective in him leaving the neighborhood.

「..... is this place really the same Japan on planet Earth, truly?」
(Shinichi)

There are a bunch of very tall buildings lined up together. In view, there are people littered all around. Those were the thoughts that had leaked out. (TLN: Shinichi)

Today is the Nakamura family's day off; they had went to a shopping district in a different part of town.

The area is a convergence of government offices, corporate offices, and public institutions. In this district, at this time during the weekdays there are a large amount of adult men dressed in business suits.

6 with black hair: 4 with colored hair pass by; among the 4 there is 1 with animal ears.

Although the person is also wear the same type of suit, there is a sense of incompatibility when compared to the others.

This place seems like a half-baked fantasy world. But, then again, it may be Shinichi has a bias perspective based around his experiences on Farandia.

In addition, some familiar Earth based themes could be seen in mixed, but they were somewhat different.

「 Hey! Please don't stop in the middle of the street.」 (???)

「Eh, Ah, excuse me.」 (Shinichi)

Not able to stop trembling? (TLN: Shinichi)

Unable to comprehend the confusion?

Feelings of vertigo?

Anyhow, Shinichi who is standing in the middle of the street is an obstacle to those who need to pass by.

At that period in time, a wealthy looking madam is in the middle of walking her pet.

「Umm.....」(Shinichi)

However, in this scene Shinichi is frozen in a dumbfounded expression with his mouth open.

The animal wasn't anything out of the particular that was understood; its figure is unmistakably that of a dog.

Although. It is made of a steel body and it has a black visor, a sensor type model; it is not a living being.

「Well now, Joseph-chan, let's get moving?」(random madam)

『Woof!』(Joseph, mechanical dog)

The celebrity looking madam casually passes by Shinichi who is in a daze.

On examination, the machine's movements seem realistic and fluid.

In the past robot dogs were popular; they shouldn't be compared to a common toy.

And now, what should be done? Shinichi has reached his limit; he is being overwhelmed by his surroundings.

After a while, Shinichi becomes unable to comprehend the concept of 'a pet from Galesto'.

A considerable number of domesticate animals were introduced, excluding dangerous living beast. However, the Amaryllis Fox is an exception because of its physique; due to their high Status humans find them difficult to control.

In short, it is a "pet". An animal model drone; a robotic weapon.

The drone was originally designed for combat support.

It was possible to use it as a partner for new recruits. However, the people of earth didn't need to use it as a bodyguard. So, it was adjusted to be a pet. When the drone was put on sell in the market, it became popular among the wealthy.

「..... somehow things have became painful.....」(Shinichi)

He tries to see the current world with his own eyes as much as possible.
(TLN: Shinichi)

His goal is to find a foothold and become in tune with the current situation.

In his hometown, Shinichi continues to receive cultural shock and become perplexed by the situation.

At any rate, Shinichi felt as if he had returned to a new world.

Ever since he drifted here 1 month ago from Farandia, he couldn't help but feel that the big change was unwanted.

Rather, he felt so from the beginning. The common sense he knew of belongs to other parallel world, and thus the bewilderment and shock was that much greater. (TLN: Farandia)

「..... this reminds me of the past, how unpleasant.

2 years ago, I was more of a good child.....」(Shinichi)

And once more, compared to 2 years ago his current self is greatly different; he now holds unpleasant emotions.

At that time, the people who saved Shinichi taught him various things. (TLN: in Farandia)

About the language, about the culture, about magic, about dangers, and about Monsters.

Little by little, Shinichi became thankful to those people. (TLN: the people who saved him)

「Why did I never questioned my father's instructions?

Ah, stop, just stop. At that time, where did my obedient self disappear to?」(Shinichi)

He had reached the point where he would always doubt what others told him. (TLN: Shinichi)

And that is the reason why Shinichi self-deprecates himself. He ridicules himself because his personality had become unstable.

Bit by bit, it started to stand out; he couldn't help but believe that his state of mind could no longer return to that of his former self.

The current situation had caused him to recall about how much he had changed,

—Do you desire power? (mysterious voice)

—Uh! (Shinichi)

Too much has been done, for one had accepted foul play too often.

In one's mind, lingers the greatest mistake of one's life, therefore one will not chose to recognize the mistake. (TLN: replace 'one' with 'you/your')

The place called a library is very convenient.

Particularly, in Japan the library is open to the general public. With the computers there one can view the records of old newspaper articles.

It was necessary for him to borrow and the read articles; it wasn't difficult for him to get access. (Shinichi)

In Farandia, utilizing a library is the most standard method in which to gather and obtain information.

Earth's media publishing is far more liberal; there is no need to have a discussion about how to sneak in and investigate • to read. (TLN: Shinichi)

Aside from being a decoy, today Shinichi came here with another objective in mind.

His purpose is to investigate various incidents and events that had happened in the news from those days. (TLN: referring to the time during and after parallel world announcement)

Even so, the technology from the parallel world had been innovative. The system that is used for searching and managing books had been greatly improved. Traditional paper books had been digitalized and are

now displayed on half of the computer screen.

The computer even has a built in miniature camera. There doesn't seem to be a downsized usb port nor a disk drive. At first, Shinichi was shocked when he couldn't see the computer.

Anyhow, in the PC area the instructions commented that there is an option for "old-style PC". In this area an old-style PC will appear; the manner to operate an old-style PC will differ.

Why didn't Shinichi use the other type of PC? Because he doesn't understand how to operate it.

It didn't have a mouse nor a keyboard; he is not able to comprehend how to use it.

Nine out of ten, Earth's technology advancement is not from the two cooperating, but rather it may had been a unilateral sponsorship of Galesto's technology. (TLN: 9/10, is a probability)

—The day the technology was release must have brought tears to the eyes of many engineers.

『When the parallel world announcement was made many people in the development field loss meaning in their research.』 (TLN: news article, perhaps)

Shinichi recalls the conversation when Agatsuma was being blackmailed.

It is very likely that the discussion involved not just scientist but also engineers.

As Shinichi was making his way through the bookshelves, in the corner of his mind he stores the information that had been gathered.

Shinichi is able to check all the archives without having to trespass or illegally intrude.

In his head, he is able to speed read through the information and process it.

Unfortunately, Shinichi is only an ordinary junior high schooler.

To be able to comprehend the information one would need to be an expert in the field, not at an average level.

Shinichi is aware that he needs to investigate the incident 8 years ago.

He had heard various things from before, but Shinichi wanted to investigate and confirm the parts he was unsure of.

And thus, he learned how the parallel world announcement came about.

Everything Shinichi had learned came together: the significance of the pursuers disturbance at the bookstore not too long ago, society, and the trends.

While looking through a published magazine Shinichi sees the highlighted merits from the exchange.

With the technological advancements, people's daily lives were enriched and securitized.

The problems of pollution and clean energy generation were solved.

However, when piling the magazines that stated the demerits, the amount of content that criticized or had the opposite opinion was scarce.

The fact that there wasn't a demerit made Shinichi question it all.

He had a feeling that a 'minus' is media censorship. (TLN: the negative demerit)

Shinichi makes indirect assumptions about the reason.

He excluded anything before the 8 years.

Above all, the people here had "accepted" the existence of the parallel world.

It can't be helped, Shinichi is unable to decide on what to do next and chooses to postpone the issue.

Anyhow, Shinichi and his companion are in a disagreement. (TLN: the Amaryllis fox)

The disputes among the citizens of Earth had come to an end; with the expansion of the worlds border, the alternate world became the bigger issue. (TLN: Galesto)

First of all, "that" should not have been accepted. (TLN: the issue with the parallel world, perhaps)

One after another, Shinichi ponders over the daily morning newspapers that had been released during the duration he had been caught in the dimension hole.

On the cover, of any article on a daily newspaper in the world, any major event or announcements are recorded.

In Japan, the announcement was made in the afternoon; only important announcements are made at that time.

『The Day of The Parallel Worlds Announcement』 at every end of society there was an uproar; the mass media was in a frenzy trying to keep up with their viewers; on the internet there were various conjecture buzzing around.

"Is today finally Judgement day!?" (random person)

"Is a giant meteorite going to fall from the sky!?" (random person)

"Is it the beginning of the campaign for world conquest!?" (random person)

"Is it the first contact with alien lifeforms!?" (random person)

Based on the amount of sufficient information from countries all around the world, He knew something globally had occurred. Shinichi laughs at the thought of all the speculations that must have been fly around.

And thus, all the information that was exchanged in secret with the parallel world Galesto was publicly announced.

There was also development in the sciences; Earth's resources were traded for technology.

What was announcement was only limited to the public exchanges and not private exchanges.

Japan was the first country to get ahead because it is a country that is known to welcome many cultures.

At least that is how Shinichi thought it was rationalized.

However, that was only an illusion. There is no evidence and it can't be investigated.

As Shinichi had thought, there are too many questions and restrictions.

Two days later, on the other hand the people of Galesto begin to advertise their technology.

Subsequently, on television there were nothing but urgent t.v. programmes collaborating together. And thus, Galesto's public image was established.

If one didn't think about it, on the surface it was merely the people of Galesto cosplaying in western clothes. They manufactured a humanlike all-purpose-machine and presented is as a large photograph.

It appears the machine wasn't CG. There was a expo event held to physically touch it. In various parts of Japan where the events were held there are well written reports.

There were also books published based on other people's reaction.

"Really a parallel world!?" (random person)

"Is it not too sudden!?" (random person)

"Isn't 'April Fools Day' still one month away, it's not a lie right!?"
(random person)

"The existence of aliens is more believable!?" (random person)

When the news was received the majority of people were bewildered and in a state of confusion.

Only the portion of people who had romanticized about a parallel world rejoiced.

In those days, and now, Shinichi believes that there are still some who have doubts.

Next, he used the PC to search for any important incidents that had happened about 8 years ago.

There were vast amounts of information pertaining to Galesto; Shinichi reluctantly narrowed downed "events" that weren't related to Galesto.

—Hey, what sort of unstable place is this country that I have returned to!?

Shinichi had forgotten he was in a library and loudly shouted out.

Although there is the minus factor, the concealment of information, it is not at the level to instill turmoil and cause insurrection.

In all due respect even if it appears that way, the fact that information is being regulated gives Shinichi goosebumps.

Currently, in the past 8 years, there are 50 or less known cases involving revolts against Galesto.

It is possible that perhaps because of the regulations a few stories in Japan were altered.

If one includes the number of incidents that the news is prevented from reporting, the estimation could easily reach 3 digits.

Once again, if one were to closely examine the conditions of a few countries annually, they would be surprised by the increase. (TLN: rebellions, perhaps)

However, the real problem is the incident's origins.

In those day, it seems the uneasiness never went away.

The 'ringleaders' with opinions that typical differ weren't there. (TLN: a.k.a. negative people)

However, the accounted reports claimed that things easily came together.

Because there were no opinions that greatly differ, the complete picture did not add up. Shinichi surmised that those bitter opinions had been removed.

"Our lives have become unreasonable after the exchange with Galesto!"
(random person)

This was probably likely.

The technology of present day Earth far exceed what was previously available. Some scientist loss their passion and some loss their job.

Employment rates and income rates had declined.

What on Earth was the cause?

One year later, on the civilian side of things, in the newspapers and on the bookshelves for some reason there are numerous publications related to Status. Shinichi picks some up.

According to the articles, Galesto accepted the exchange of civil power.

On Earth, this acceptance of exchange is considered "to be" very important.

On behalf of Galesto's historic culture, it seems to be common practice on the grand stage when addressing the public. And 1 year later, this was how the networking with the civilian population came to be. Thus, various places began to resemble a political system that is a combination of a government like system and an aristocrat like system.

Although, Earth's technology is remarkable and expectational antagonistic. It is a universal threat. (TLN: bombs, guns, atomic weapons, bio weapon. perhaps)

The Status system, the evaluation of abilities, resembles a merit system that is discriminative.

—Shinichi had an unpleasant premonition.

This Status doctrine, preferences, may have brought about inequality.

If one were to insert the broken pieces, it would put an end to the perfect picture. (TLN: the perfect picture is current System/ society.)

The evidence can be found if one were to closely examine the Status system that was composed——

「Ahh!?」(Shinichi)

——Shinichi forgot where he was and shouted out loud.

Once again, he makes an earnest apology to the surrounding strict glares of the librarians.

However, he couldn't help it. Shinichi had located the article pertaining to Status, on his right. (TLN: PC monitor)

On his left, he reads the latest articles published about Status and then compares the 2 to help him understand it.

The article on the right contained information about the evaluation of a person's Status, ability Rank. Individuals with a high Rank have a duty to defend against threats. Those with a low Rank owe others and are tasked with miscellaneous duties.

It seems that these division of labor were drawn up based around the threat of Monsters.

The article on the left, Status, a person's ability Rank is a system that represents their value. Regardless of high or low the standard is that each generation is to be newly evaluated.

Those with a superior Rank have special privileges in selecting an excellent job. It is all for the sake of the era's development.

The System is skewed in favor of individual who excel.

What is the meaning of this?

The notations and intentions were completely different.

When Shinichi double checked the publication related to Status, the notations didn't match up.

The publicized obligated duty, the role appraised by Status, is based on the notation of elitism; where a person with high Rank Status receives favorable treatment.

There were numerous publications. Which two should be chosen? Shinichi searches for one with a neutral thesis.

It is certainly truth that each Author's way of thinking is different.

Society's general opinion, or perhaps an earthling, but Shinichi prefers a Japanese person's opinion.

Shinichi steadily scrolls back to the lastest article.

He steadily scrolls and reach to around 1 year ago.

Shinichi carefully reads both articles while comparing them. The perception of society began to drift away; something came into view. (TLN: he see it what it truly is, perhaps)

Presently, officially Status was first announced as a new standard for roles. Galesto informed society and persistently tried to popularize the standard.

However, Japan for some reason applied the standard to employment, schooling, and job interviews.

It became a trend to favor people with high Rank and the practice became instilled.

Many articles on this subject were written. But, once an idea takes root there is no easy way to get rid of it.

This must be that "something" that caused the rebellion among those people who had lost.

The origin is 『the Japanese people misunderstood Galesto』. They took the meaning too literal.

In the early stages of the exchange, the Japanese people must have repeatedly mistranslated the notation, one delicate blunder.

For the sake of coming to term with the absurdity of a parallel world they took one exceptionally broad method of understanding.

The Japanese people had a crude understanding of Galesto. As Galesto displayed the technology that they had production, the majority of people came to believe that all the idea of Galesto-san were exceptional ones.

And thus, it was a misunderstanding, a mistake. The idea of a perfect society is the main contributor. The origin was taking things too literally.

Especially, the Status doctrine. As it was, it is a comment that was misunderstood and had just happened to spread.

Based on the ability doctrine, the elites who received it worn a mask of morality and judged those who didn't. (TLN: received ability)

"The ability of a person cannot be measured." (random person)

"The judgement of Status disregards human rights." (random person)

There were some reasonable proclamations, although, Shinichi thought they were "narrow minded" opinions.

To Galesto it was a personal matter; it was a necessity needed to defend against threats; a rather pressing state of affairs.

They took into account the parallel worlds methods; it was the deciding factor. The Japanese values has a certain pride, an extreme criticism that

is outright "crazy" and thus it couldn't be helped. (TLN: japanese have an extreme fear of criticism, perhaps)

It was said and done, once several public figures in the media supported the idea. This proclamation about the Status doctrine that happened to be a misunderstanding coincidentally spreaded, and thus this is how it came about.

Through an unlucky chain of events the networking only deepened the misunderstanding. (TLN: working with Galesto, perhaps)

As for Galesto, the aristocrats maximized on the Status doctrine by giving it their blessing, therefore increasing its exposure in the media. The difference between Rank in Status was cultivated and expressed.

On camera, the nobles of Galesto, made a declaration that high Rank individuals have an obligation duty and that they should be proud of it. That was not lip-service, in itself, it is proof that they risk their lives everyday. (TLN: the nobles)

That was sincere.

While investigating, as he listens to the footage; in support of the article Shinichi gives a nod in response.

At least in Farandia, in comparison this level of pride wasn't seen.

Deep down, being genuinely will to fight is a behavior Shinichi still does not understand.

The way of the aristocrats had been rarely seen; long ago, the Japanese people use to support that ideology.

And thus the Ranks issue did not go away. Instead it inspired well-known fighters. When the people of Galesto first became aware of the fighting there were no tournaments and there was no meaning in winning.

In those days, in the footage Shinichi saw there were no techniques nor

abilities being used.

Status was used to enchant the body but the effects varied.

Shinichi judgement is based on the knowledge of Status from Farandia. Slender young boys and girls were single-handedly pinning down burly men. In those days, people saw it as a shocking spectacle; it only hasten the misunderstanding.

At first, when Shinichi had arrived on Farandia he was also surprised. Shinichi recalls the memories of when he saw the figures of a brigand of young children, the same age as himself, vigorously exterminating Monsters.

—It changed his sense of values.

More or less, Shinichi has become accustom to this truthful knowledge. (TLN: basically knowledge he had to accepted, perhaps)

And thus, all throughout Japan the same thing occurred.

The Japanese people were unaware of the proper way in which the nobles carried themselves. They only saw the sensational news of renown fighters being unilateral defeated. (TLN: by slender children, perhaps)

What circulated was the misunderstanding "as long as you have high Status".

Ironically the mistake was realized but it had already spreaded.

Natural the official information isn't available, however, it is once again what Shinichi had surmised. Incidentally, it is not possible to investigate them and find out whether or not it is correct. It is not possible to contact Galesto nor is it possible to travel to their country. Much about them is relatively unknown.

Despite it all, Galesto's technology and knowledge is indeed excellent and unrivaled. Those who were influenced by the nonsense of Status, whether high or low, either superior or inferior, the number of judgmental people in society had multiplied.

As far as Shinichi knows, ability has no real connection to the flesh.

And thus, this has become the current state of Japanese society. Shinichi thinks back to the day he had returned and to the time he had undergone an examination. Shinichi can now understand the significance of the words that were spoken by the female doctor and Rinko.

『You also are, unfortunate.

With a Rank of only this amount, it seems this child who has returned will merely be a hindrance.』 (female doctor)

『..... don't worry, I'm an Earthling, so mind your own business.』
(Rinko)

In Japan those who have a low Rank are not treated well. For Shinichi, this meant trouble. Her words held meaning; when Rinko had retorted that she was an Earthling, Rinko had declared that she wouldn't mistreat Shinichi.

Judging by Rinko's "I'll do something about it" attitude and behavior that she has shown, it seems that her actions did have meaning.

It seems that the female doctor's contempt couldn't be heard because of the translation problem.

Shinichi who had returned to the current hardships of Japan is annoyed and troubled.

As one would expect, thanks to the 8 year time lapse, everything's not okay and his time had diminished.

『The Japanese People Misunderstood Galesto』 was composed and published 4 years ago. 4 years ago in those days, the income difference in comparison had approximately become more narrow. (TLN: the gap between the rich and the poor, perhaps)

Nonetheless, in this era discrimination had not disappeared. People still hold onto misguided knowledge and they continue to do so.

A person with a high Rank certainly does have flesh that is superior. However, the idea is incomplete and it makes for a puzzling discussion.

At the civilian level the notation of "a high Rank is amazing, and remarkable", this mistake is not yet deeply ingrained.

Because of this Japan had accepted numerous cases of misunderstandings and mistakes. World-wide in regards to the success and failure of the people who participated in the exchange, Japan can be used as a model example.

Is it even possible to call it a blessing?

In the beginning, during the civil exchange between countries, worrying about not falling behind was scarcely a problem.

Despite it all, why didn't Japan improve on the important parts of the foreign country's knowledge that wasn't understood.

Once before, there was a case where the Japanese common sense crossed the taboo and changed the meaning of what is considered rude.

Previously, in regards to the Japanese people as a whole, ignorance was also exchanged.

And, the exchange with Galesto can also be included to this conversation.

「Isn't this island country mentally completely harmful?」(Shinichi)

While returning a book to the shelf, he mutters to himself and a sigh escapes.

As he ponders the absurdity of the Japanese circumstance, it gives Shinichi a headache.

His feelings are heavy. Anyhow, the mistake is difficult to comprehend.

If the circumstances were clearly different he would have noticed, but the original was mixed in and it became difficult to understand. (TLN: hint, what is the title of this series)

How a high Rank person is treated is a mistake and is not corrected.

Shinichi thinks about the former high Rank and the talk about their obligations and duty.

Things that can threaten Earth are few. In addition, to the many years of peace, Japan couldn't comprehend its essences. (TLN: essence of peace, perhaps)

They couldn't understand the privilege, and naturally they didn't understand the difference that was created; it became a troublesome cause.

Nevertheless, it was something Japan fabricated under the influence of Galesto ideology, that was the source of it all.

Truly, a troublesome and inconvenient story.

—However, it is still a peaceful story.

But, once it becomes a genuine fight, whether they are a Monster or a

human, they had best prepare themselves.

Although, does an Earthling or a Japanese person with a high Rank really have any war potential?

As a person's Rank raise and they overcome hardships to improve, it seems they may not be powerless afterall.

However, will they be useful on the battlefield? But, Shinichi has doubts as to whether they will be about to return home safe and sound.

「..... is it understood, do they know?」 (Shinichi)

A few years ago there was an article in the newspaper. It had a similar story. And one photograph.

Whenever Shinichi sees that photograph with the figures of people in terrible condition, he remembers the pain that was felt.

"This is the anticipation of a new star!" (random headlines, perhaps)

"The new high Rank Japanese person." (random headlines, perhaps)

"In the future, I want to get a job that lets me protect everyone."
(random headlines, perhaps)

Two junior high school students are displayed, a boy and girl with the same face, they are fraternal twins.

The article contains very high expectations. It seems they apparently have a very high Rank.

At that time, scouts and businesses were keeping an eye on them; people are expecting great thing from their future.

「..... it was difficult supporting mother.

Although, that is also a part of the reason, as well..... 」(twins, perhaps)

It is love, although, it is a photograph somehow the feelings could be touched.

Regarding the reason why the twins choose that profession it wasn't agreeable.

In modern times, it isn't a choice for a mother to be relieved by their child obtaining social guarantee and privileges in that profession.

Among Shinichi's memories of 8 years ago, when he was not yet 8 years old, Shinichi had no choice but to work hard in taking care of his younger brother and younger sister.

Shinichi thinks back to the moment he was reunited with his siblings again; it was a little sad, but it was pleasant.

Soon, Shinichi will be 16 years old.

Perhaps, he is being favorable to his family members, but Shinichi thought his little brother is becoming a handsome man, and his younger sister is becoming a beautiful woman.

Shinichi himself had not fallen behind; his spoiled appearance can no longer be seen.

Although, his age and stature had changed, Shinichi's important feelings have not.

For example, even if they come to hate and ostracize him, Shinichi will still be their older brother.

When all is said, he will protect them and will be their ally. Shinichi wants to always be able to lend a helping hand.

Although, where they live there is no peril; Shinichi still wish to help.

But, it is sad to say, the current him only had a limited common knowledge of this world and cannot function well here.

Shinichi doesn't possess the knowledge. He doesn't have the money. He doesn't have any authority. He doesn't have any connections either. And he doesn't know the common sense.

At this point in time, Shinichi is deciding on approximately which person or threat to shut down.

In addition, with the current state of affairs there is still the restriction on the public flow of information.

「helplessness.....」(Shinichi)

And thus, the significance of Shinichi's existence poses various danger to his family.

If this world's society learned of Farandia existence, the issue could cause his family to fall apart. There was nothing Shinichi could do about it; he had no leverage to negotiate with.

—How much time, how much effort?

They have 8 years worth of high Rank; he does not have entry level ability in Status. To an extreme extent it has become an "increasing trend". As expected, Shinichi's power is too useless.

「..... foolishness?」(Shinichi)

For a moment he believed it was futile. If power is shown, who would

stop? (TLN: rhetorical question, perhaps)

The ability doctrine was the foundation that created this society, is what Shinichi thought.

In reality, I want to say it is wonderful; I really do.

Such as, how a person behaves like a child in front of their parents. Or, how the eldest child swaggers in front of their siblings.

The things oneself had done, one wants to be able to boast about it.

However, in today's society, to his mother, to his younger brother, and to his little sister of 8 years later, Shinichi is unable to brag them.

Nothing can be done about the hinderance that he had become.

「I shouldn't do, anything unreasonable.」(Shinichi)

Gradually and at long last he had a simile with a purpose, although, the only thing Shinichi could do was mutter.

2-06 : Hero

While he was focused on investigating, Shinichi forgot about his lunch. He returns all the documents back to their original location. The library has a lounge area. Shinichi moves to the breakroom - food and drinks room.

His lunch break is a little behind schedule. From his bag, Shinichi took out something big that is wrapped in a handkerchief.

Shinichi is unsure as to whether or not he is suppose to return the lunchbox back to Rinko. (T/N: after he eats it, perhaps)

—Here is a, bento! (T/N: bento, is a japanese lunchbox)

Today, Rinko is enthusiastically playing the role of a "mother".

Shinichi informed her not to long ago that he was going out; how did she prepare the bento so quickly?

He left the house while being obviously puzzled.

Nevertheless, her job calls for accuracy. But, contrary to her outward appearance she is a powerful person. (T/L: Rinko's is a Countermeasure Task Force officer)

Even now, it puzzles Shinichi as to what Rinko sees in his father. (T/N: why did she married Shinichi's father, perhaps)

「However..... why are their only sandwiches, I wonder?」 (Shinichi)

Shinichi opens the sandwiches and examines the contents; he sees ingredients with vivid colors that are crammed together.

Shinichi feels that the food on top of the dining table is in someway

prejudice to western cuisine. (T/N: japanese style of western cuisine, is unique, perhaps)

Anyways, he still feels like a freeloader.

In reality, Shinichi wants to eat white rice with miso soup. But, he doesn't voice his selfishness.

「Hamu, nga, although this is plenty delicious, it wasn't extravagant in the first place.」(Shinichi)

It is different from pre-made food bought from a convenience store; the homemade food is lip smacking good.

Now that he thinks about it, this meal is one of the few moments he has enjoyed since returning to this world.

Perhaps, this feeling of fulfilment is thanks to his investigation of the books and articles.

By securing accurate information, Shinichi is able to put a close to the endless possibilities. (T/N: Shinichi needlessly stops worrying, perhaps)

「ngu, mgu..... but how can it be this scrupulous and sloppy at the same time.

I need to stop my bad habit of sniffing my food's fragrance.」(Shinichi)

The shady side of this country is too much.

Shinichi thought the matter is ridiculous and couldn't agree with it.

Anyhow, by all means, he couldn't understand it. Shinichi could not comprehend their reasoning, the manner in which they made the announcement to the public. (T/N: the government, perhaps)

In regards to the topic of the civil exchange, they had no problems with

trading off natural resources. Earth was able to publicly and effectively use the advance technology; it was labeled as a positive achievement.

However, the business transaction had been approximately 30 years in the making; it took place in the very back, in absolute secrecy. The official public announcement was too unexpected and chaotic. It felt as if the countermeasure predictions plans were postponed.

Besides, from a long term point of view the decision was harmful. A united and harmonious method is definitely preferable. If everyone had known from the earlier stages, there would have been no problems with understanding. That way, little by little, people could have gotten used to things and the mayhem would have been less.

Is it not, standard procedure for the government-industries-and, the military to investigate things prior to moving forward.

At the same time, alongside the official announcement, from that technology they had prepared tools and devices to be sold.

To appeal to the J.S.D.F. and the armies of the other countries, they all received a full equipment upgrade. (T/N: J.S.D.F. is Japanese-self-defense-force)

Needless to say, this was the work of the 38 years of behind the scene politics.

This commonplace act was carried out after the announcement. They disregarded any adverse effects it may have had on the general public.

During the official announcement about the exchange, 8 years ago, was this the forceful command that they had previously used?

Or, was it mutual for both parties? Did circumstances left them with no choice but to officially announce it as such?

In regards to that problem, even among the internet's vast library , the

answer can't be found.

Nonetheless, this is all the information that is allocated to the general public. Presently, the information Shinichi wants to obtain is unobtainable.

To the utmost end of the law that is, however.

Γ no, no, wait, wait.

I need to calm down, it's still too soon to investigate the utmost end.」

If Shinichi went directly to the source, the top, would he be able to acquire information about Galesto?

He stops himself from thinking about it anymore.

What Shinichi wants to know is the common knowledge of an ordinary person.

From before, he had ventured into the dark side of society and it has had an influence him. (T/N: while on Falandia, perhaps)

Shinichi asks himself if he is willing to jump into the giant maelstrom called the parallel worlds league of networking. (T/N: there is no league, a joke, perhaps)

If the parallel world was Falandia instead, in that case Shinichi would have a responsibility to fulfill.

At that time, the mask was entrusted with the task "to secretly" monitor the world. For him to be aware of the actions of the darkside, it was necessary.

However, presently Galesto has not keep ties with this world. (T/N: Earth, perhaps)

He has no obligation to 'poke his nose' into this troublesome affaire. (T/N: meddle, perhaps)

「Bad habits, huh...」(Shinichi)

The last 2 years are ingrained into his subconsciousness. It wasn't something that could simply fade away; Shinichi bitterly smiles. (T/N: while on Falandia, perhaps)

He got a can of apple juice from a vending machine and quenched his thirst.

The delicious and nostalgic flavor that he remembers resets his trivial thoughts.

Henceforth after this, Shinichi felt that he would be able to inquire about things more clearly.

His father and his step-mother have said nothing all. But, the matter can't afford to continue as they are.

If one were think about Shinichi's age, then it is appropriate for him to go to school. But, should he go? (T/N: yes, perhaps)

In the first place, he had passed the age limit for middle school. Should Shinichi begin studying in advance?

While savoring the sandwich, he thought about what to do next.

Despite it all, Shinichi 'smacks his lips' as he truly enjoys the delicious meal.

「For a second there I felt sick, should I stop here?」(Shinichi)

「Waaha, it can't be, studying, why am I worrying over nothing.」(Shinichi)

(T/N: yes, I also think his talks to himself, perhaps)

He still doesn't have knowledge of the country's secret. (T/N: Japan, perhaps)

It is like saying that the ignorance of his home world is ironically someone else's problem.

「Huh?」(Shinichi)

「Who is this person?」(hot-blooded boy)

「What to do..... did security leave him alone because of his age?」
(easy-going boy)

As Shinichi digests his meal, he thinks about why his name never came up. He wasn't able to find anything related to himself. (T/N: news about Shinichi's disappearance, perhaps)

After returning to the 'fantastic world of Japan', aside from the meal there wasn't much that was enjoyable. (T/N: sarcasm, perhaps)

Presently, Shinichi is lost in thought with the enjoyment of his meal; he "truthfully" didn't notice their voices.

As usual, "she" was debating whether or not to just let things be.

This situation is of course not normal. It is rude behavior and it completely disregards the onlookers.

But, to that person behaving this way isn't a problem.

In the current circumstance, this problem isn't a problem at all. She has the strength to put things to an end.

Shinichi's habit, his lack self-awareness is quite amazing.

「Hey, can you hear me!?」(unknown girl A)

「Wh-what, do you want?」(Shinichi)

As expected, Shinichi didn't notice them and he was startled.

A group of 5-6 people had gathered together around him.

If one were to judge them based on their appearance, their age looks to be in the later half of their teens. Presumably, the boys and girls were studying in the library.

It is probable that they were going to use this 'space' for their recess.

「You're quite an impudent fellow. Hurry and leave already.」(hot-blooded boy)

「Hey, hey. There aren't any other locations open. Hand over this place, alright?」(easy-going boy)

Among them, there is a hot-blooded boy and an easy-going boy.

There are two girls; they have a annoyed expression and won't even look at Shinichi.

No matter how one views it, only a person hogging a whole table to himself can be seen.

「I understand, give me 2 minutes to tidy up.」(Shinichi)

In the matters of sharing a table, if an individual regardless as to whether they are male or female, when it becomes a choice the party with more members should take the table.

In this situation Shinichi should offer his seat. He hurries and stuffs the sandwiches into his mouth.

The concept of showing respect and polite manners to one's senior was forgotten. The quick tempered boy is too irritated to notice.

「Hey, brat. I said remove it now!」(hot-blooded boy)

「ngu, ngu, gulp, uh.」(Shinichi)

Well, for the beginning it seems they weren't apathetic that is for sure.

「..... hey, who is this person?」(unknown girl B)

The agitated boy is truly disturbed by Shinichi who continues to eat. With great force the boy intimidatingly slams his hand onto the table.

Shinichi being dumbfounded by their attitude, finished the sandwich sooner than he had expected.

「Well, as you can see this fellow is quite short-tempered.

It is in your best interest to quickly step aside.

Anyhow, this person is an all – B. Do you doubt it?

Here's proof.」(easy-going boy)

While not saying anything else apart from sipping his juice, the boy displayed a card.

A mug-shot of the impatient boy could be seen. Alongside the photo the Rank is shown.

Certainly, as far as Shinichi could see, it seems the person trully is an all – B Rank.

Upond hear it, as from what Shinichi could see the people surrounding them seem a little frightened.

From listen to them, it appears that this person's Rank is High.

「Ha, this fellow is serious.

Please, at that don't act like a wannabe-gangster; you're making my sides ache.」 (Shinichi)

Shinichi reflexively laughs at the boy's attitude.

Presently, Shinichi knows about society's mistake about Status.

With all due respect, there does exist such a fool. And, such a person had made an appearance. (T/N: the hot-blooded boy, perhaps)

Shinichi can't help but laugh, well, aside from the remaining juice. (T/N: "seriously Author-san", running out of juice is not funny!, perhaps)

Shinichi drinks up the remaining juice in one gulp. For some reason the short-tempered boy is sharply glaring at Shinichi.

A troublesome reaction can be sensed for the boy; it contains wrath.

—This person really is a wannabe-gangster. Shinichi is worried about Japan's future.

Shinichi "once again" didn't pay attention to the situation and he pushed the other party to their limit.

His manner of speech is frank and unforgiving. It is quite sharp-tongued.

The blunt remark Shinichi made is a mixture of a typical and vague

Japanese expression, that had been influenced by Falandia culture.

This manly way of speech is not intentional, the problem is Shinichi did it "without thinking", however.

At any rate, the short-tempered boy is ready to strike at any moment.

How to smash up this bastard? In what manner shall he be crushed?
(T/N: targeted to Shinichi, perhaps)

If one had to guess what the other party's instinctive thoughts were.

「You sure have guts!」(hot-blooded boy)

「Ah~a, I don't care anymore, this fellow has snapped—」(easy-going boy)

「—I should warn you, that card was last updated 2 years ago.

Your pitiful bravado act is obvious.」(unknown girl B)

Shinichi is impressed by their pitiful courage, their interruption.

Exactly what are they chattering on about? Shinichi is curious to know, but could not make out what they are saying.

However, before he could get used to their abusive remarks, they became speechless.

Their particular figure that can be "seen" causes Shinichi to be flabbergasted.

「Currently..... hmm, below 'C', perhaps. Furthermore, everyone is the same level.

So, the rat is borrowing the tiger's pelt, are you not ashamed?」
(Shinichi)

There is no tool to accurately measure Rank, however, by examining the spirit a rough estimate can be made.

If one were to think about it, Status is merely the spirit energy that emits from the body.

While considering various theories, he questions whether Maryoku is hardened spirit that had been forged.

There is a high probability this broad theory is correct.

By the way, in place of the classic example, for "her" a fox is substituted with rat. (T/N: japanese idiom, perhaps)

「Bastard!!」 (unknown girl A)

「You're the ones who started the insults.」 (Shinichi)

The easy-going boy turned bright red; his anger is visible.

Finally, the two girls realized they are being insulted.

The easy-going boy had heard enough abusive language.

Suddenly? Finally?

Shinichi ponders as to whether he should crush them right here.

This place is visible to the people in his community. Presently, this is the area he resides in.

If he were to commit acts of violence, the police would arrive here in 10 minutes.

It is already too late to run away; the surveillance camera had already

seen his face.

If the Japanese police system were to investigate, it wouldn't take them long to find him.

—This is somewhat, fairly unpleasant.

As always, Shinichi carefully thinks things through.

In Japan the use of violence and assault is a crime.

Although, as far as Shinichi knows, fights in this alternate world may be perhaps commonplace. His common sense from the previous Japan may not be helpful.

Shinichi considers that the best choice is to run away.

If the other party were to give chase, let's say to a place where no one is watching, it just may be a good chance to crush them.

This is one of the methods Shinichi used on Falandia to avoid injustice.

In the end, he turns back to his old way of thinking. It was fundamental that way to begin with.

The day that Shinichi can live an ordinary and peaceful life in the country of Japan is still far away.

It is already too late to hold that weight of happiness.

The feeling will escape if one doesn't give chase with a suitable speed.

Shinichi had simply given up on running too early.

「Ah, aah-umm, as I thought, you are here!」 (unknown man)

An unfamiliar man called out to Shinichi.

The man's suit fits his tall physique; he turns to face Shinichi. The group huddled around each other, behind the man, and began to chatter among themselves.

Friend or foe? Based on the man's manner of speech, he is someone important.

「Sorry, is something wrong?

This child, may appear Japanese, but he is from a foreign country.

His Japanese communication skills never improved, you see.」 (unknown man)

—Such, lies.

Shinichi has to resist the urge to voice his opinion.

At any rate, by all means this is one of those scenarios where a protagonist "pretends to help out a stranger" that is seen in a stereotype manga. Shinichi is deeply moved, and continues to watch as things play out.

「Eh, is that how it was?」 (unknown girl A)

「..... idiot, it's a trick!」 (hot-blooded boy)

The boy's outburst convinces a few of his companions.

However, like throwing fuel on a fire, their attention focus onto the man instead of Shinichi.

「What is your name old man!」(hot-blooded boy)

「Umm, so it was hopeless.....」(unknown man)

「.....」(Shinichi)

However, it is unfortunate.

The clumsy spirit of wanting to helping another individual is indeed splendid.

His hand became restless, and his simile began to fade. (T/N: unknown man, perhaps)

If he abandon this person, truthfully it will make him uneasy. Although, it isn't necessary to help.

Shinichi chooses to join the conversation and gives his explanation. "His voice" is heard.

「"Will you stop? I'm a vulnerable all – D Rank.

Does your group get pleasure from bullying weaklings?

Isn't more worthwhile chatting at a table with a circle of friends. Am I wrong?」(Shinichi)

From his voice Shinichi's removes his ego; He does so with the intent to converse with them.

Shinichi's words and speech were changed to something that would be considered common tone. However, for some reason it weighed heavily on them. What changed about his voice?

「Ah..... that's right. Just leave already.」(hot-blooded boy)

「Umm..... yeah, I agree let's leave the chit-chat aside.」(easy-going boy)

「Uh..... that's good, yesterday at the bookstore near the station there was a novel release, I—」(unknown girl B)

After the group of boys and girls mentioned it, they head towards the table.

And then, they cheerfully start to chat. Their conversation is monotone. It is as if the previous incident never happened.

「..... as usual, the dirty power of infringing on human dignity is.....」(unknown man)

It seems it was also effective on this man. After establishing that fact, Shinichi made a complex facial expression and then sighs.

And once again, that voice is stopped and "blocked" as well.

「Eh, what, why?」(Shinichi)

On the otherhand.

In any case, to not get caught up in the situation they pretend it didn't happen.

For the situation to suddenly change, right before his eyes, Shinichi couldn't comprehend it and thus he is naturally bewildered.

「I guess they lost interest.

Leaving that aside, thank you very much.」(Shinichi)

To pay his respect Shinichi gave a slight bow.

Although, the man wasn't able to help, his noble spirit is worth bowing one's head for.

And then, after Shinichi had raised his head, he saw the man's face for the first time.

「That was exhausting. Ah, I wasn't able to do much you see..... eh?」
(unknown man)

「Eh?」(Shinichi)

Because of the height difference between them, the man had overlooked Shinichi's face. The man saw Shinichi's face for the first time.

When they saw one another's face, they couldn't help but think it is déjà vu. They pause for a moment and they try to remember.

And then, they spontaneously call out each other's name.

「..... Daigo?」(Shinichi)

「Impossible..... Shinichi, is that you?」(Daigo)

The shakened and surprised facial expression from earlier had shifted.

Although, he muttered impossible the gaze of his "childhood friend" never separated.